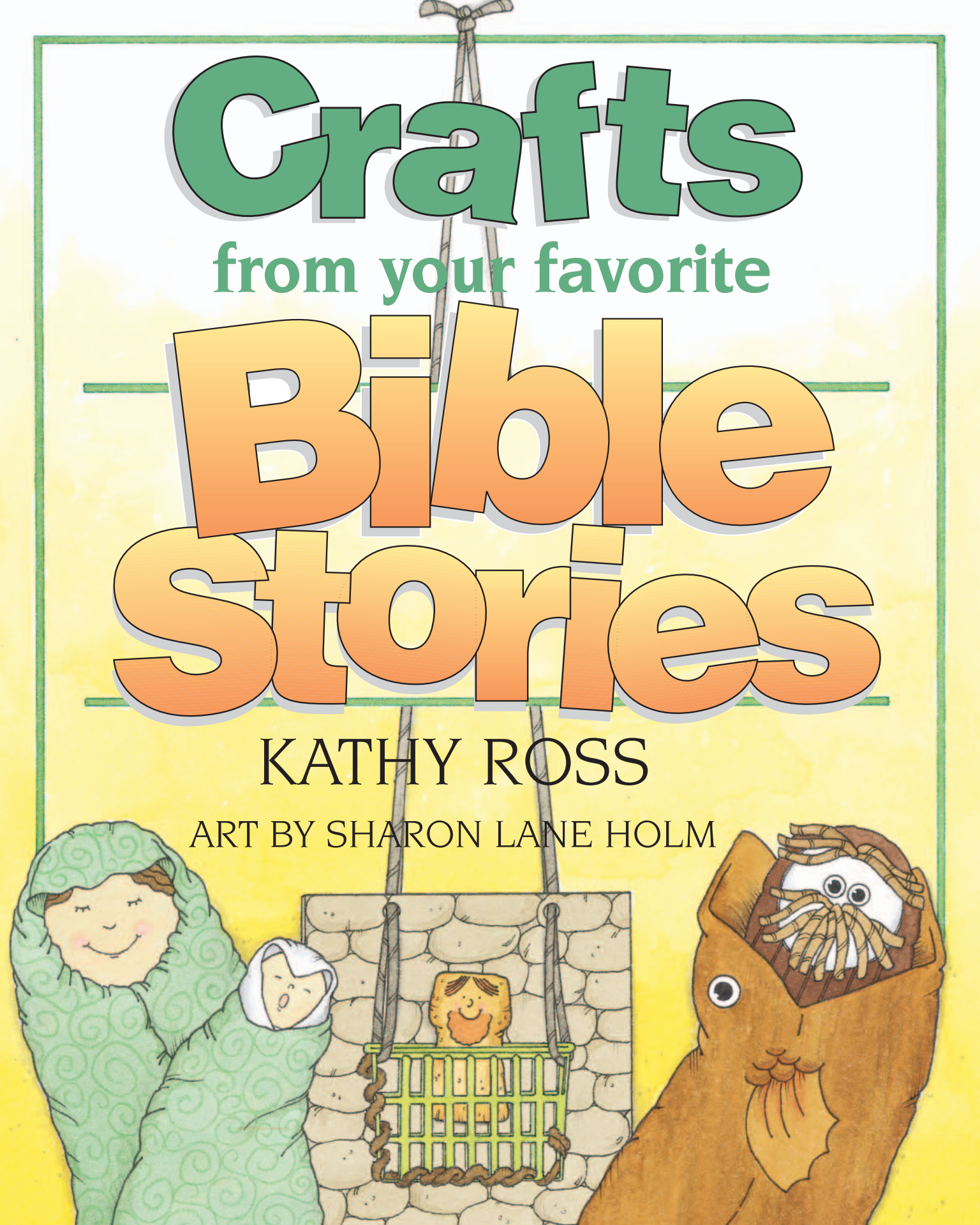
Crafts from your favorite Bible Stories

KATHY ROSS

ART BY SHARON LANE HOLM



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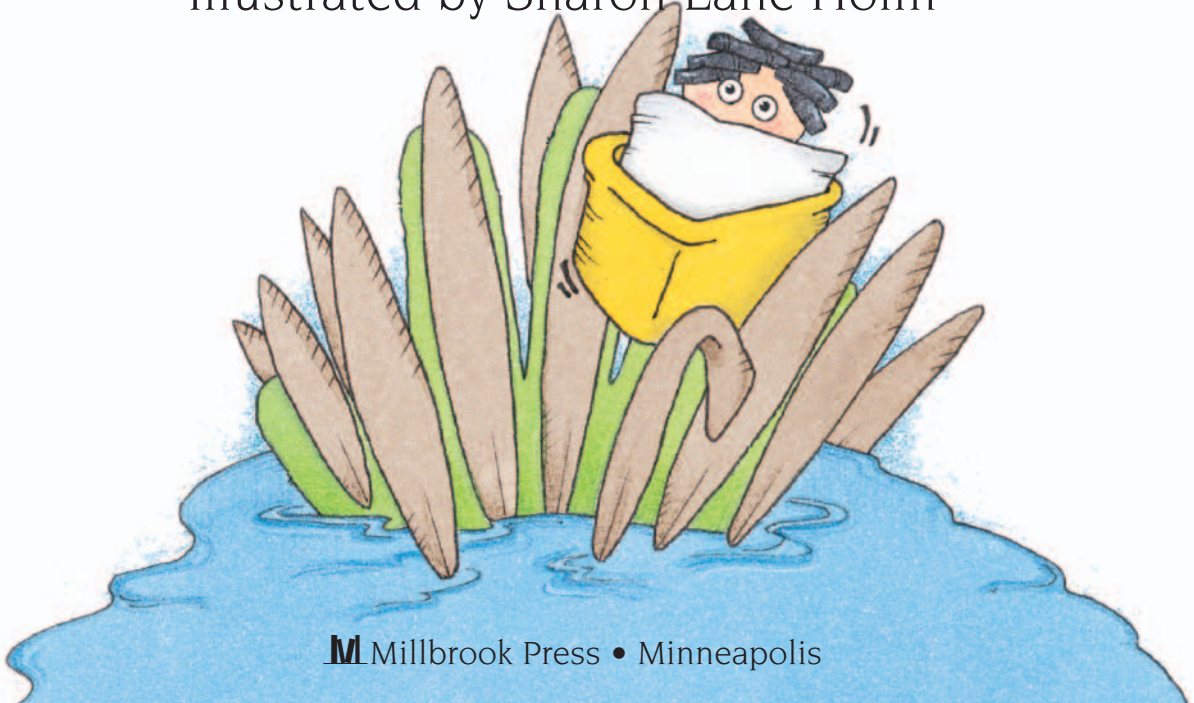
By Kathy Ross

Illustrated by Sharon Lane Holm



Millbrook Press • Minneapolis

For all the children of the Gethsemane Church Sunday School, Sherrill, New York.
K.R.

For Zoe Elizabeth, welcome little one.
S.L.H.

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Introduction

Sharing the wonderful stories of the Bible with children has surely been one of the more rewarding and fruitful joys in my life. To pass on the stories of struggle and triumph, of faith and miracles, is important for building character and teaching ethical behavior at an early age.

My many years of teaching preschool and Sunday school have shown me that involving the reader in stories strengthens their understanding. The hands-on experiences of making and using props related to Bible stories have been invaluable in helping children to remember the stories as well as to understand their underlying message.

This book shares some of my favorite Bible stories and the projects I used to teach them.

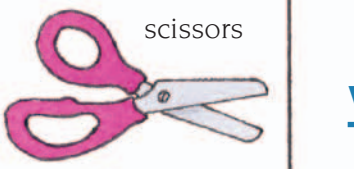
Happy crafting,

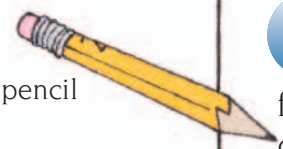
Kathy Ross

The story of the creation of the world and everything in it is told in the very first chapter of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

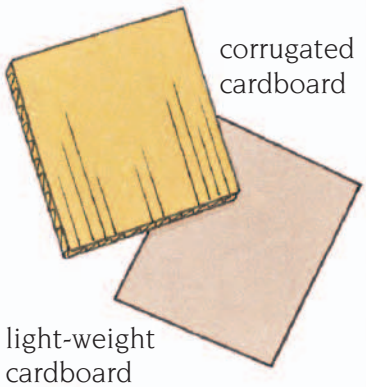
Creation Wheel

you need:

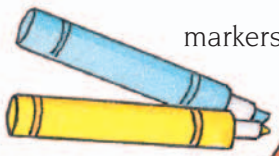

scissors


pencil

ruler


corrugated cardboard

light-weight cardboard


markers

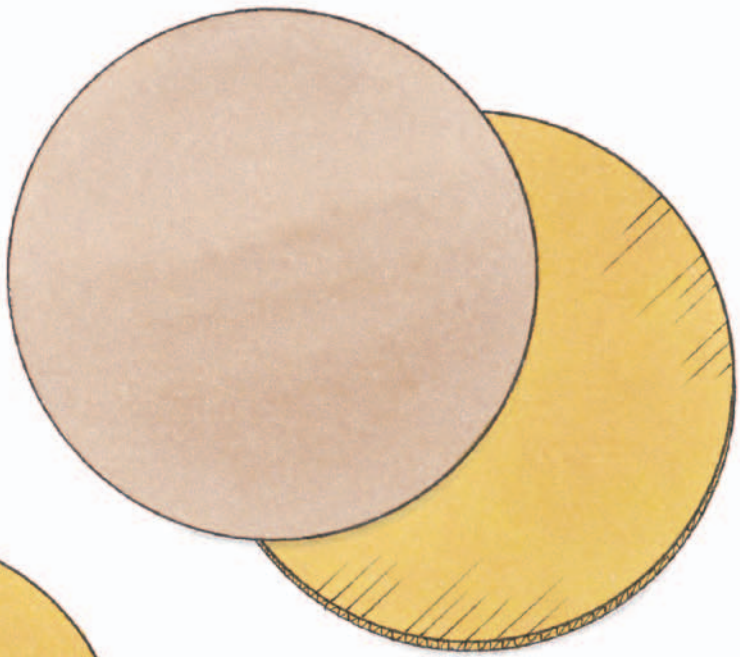
white glue

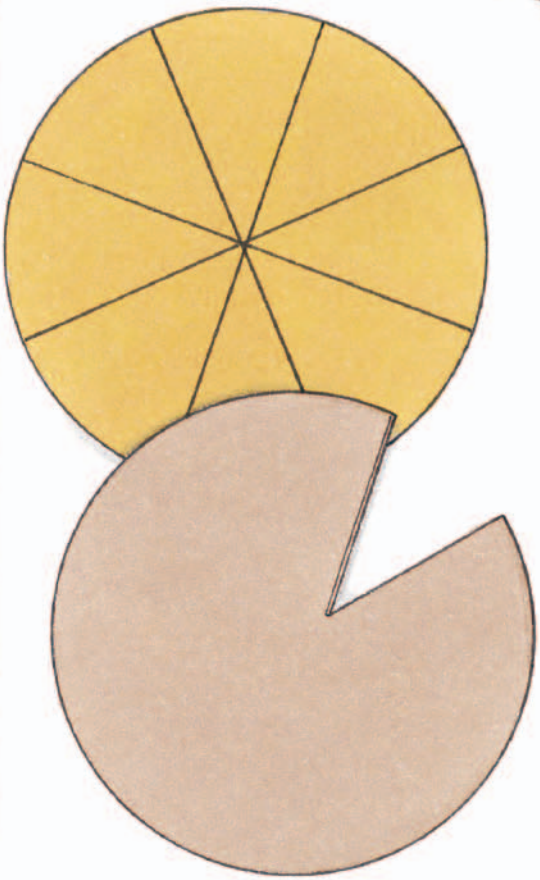
cotton ball

paper fastener

what you do:

1 Cut a 12-inch (30-cm) circle from the corrugated cardboard. Cut an identical circle from the light-weight cardboard.

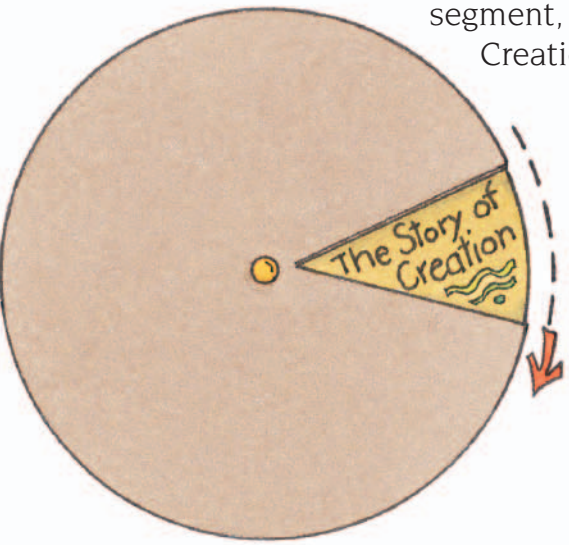




2 Use the ruler to divide the corrugated cardboard circle into eight equal wedge-shaped segments. Cut a segment from the light-weight cardboard that is slightly smaller than one segment of the corrugated cardboard circle. Make sure it does not go all the way to the center of the light-weight cardboard circle.

3 Use the markers to decorate each segment on the corrugated cardboard to tell about the seven days of creation. In the first segment write "The Story of Creation" and decorate the segment. The next segment will be the first day of creation, when God separated the light from the dark. On the second day He made the sky. You can glue a bit of cotton in the sky to look like clouds. On the third day He separated the lands from the seas, and on the fourth day God put the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky. On the fifth day He filled the seas with fish and the sky with birds. On the sixth day He created all the animals and He created man. On the seventh day God rested from his work.

4 Attach the light-weight cardboard circle to the top of the corrugated cardboard circle by putting the paper fastener through the center of both circles. Arrange the top circle so that the title segment, "The Story of Creation," shows through.



Use the creation wheel to tell the biblical story of the creation, turning the top wheel to expose the picture of each of the seven days.

A serpent convinced Eve to disobey God and eat from the Tree of Knowledge. You can read this story in Genesis 3.

The Tree of Knowledge

you need:

four 12-inch (30-cm) brown pipe cleaners

scissors

scrap of orange paper

ruler

12 small red beads

one 12-inch (30-cm) green pipe cleaner or sparkle stem

white glue

green yarn

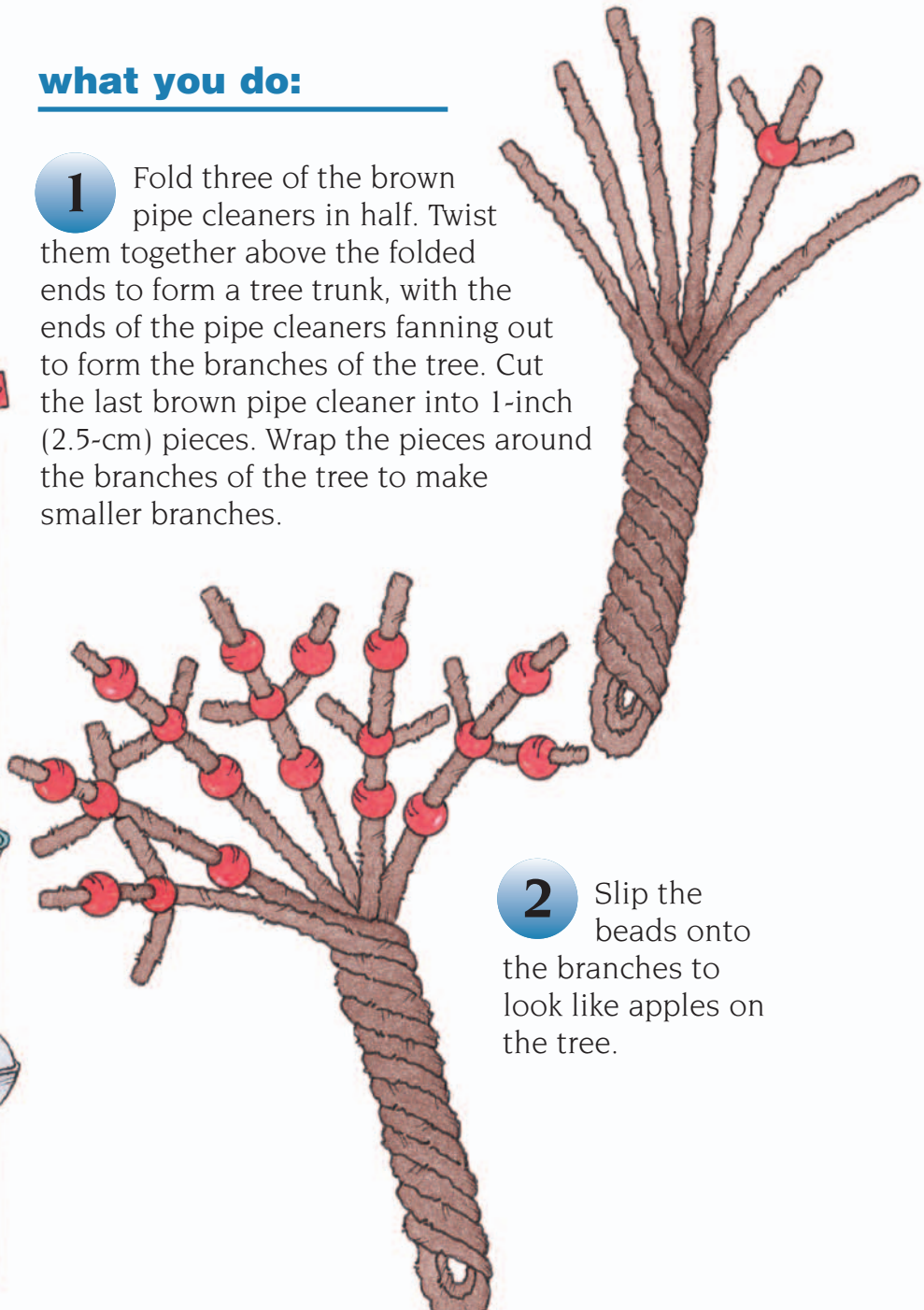
Styrofoam tray to work on

green poster paint and a paintbrush

cardboard egg carton

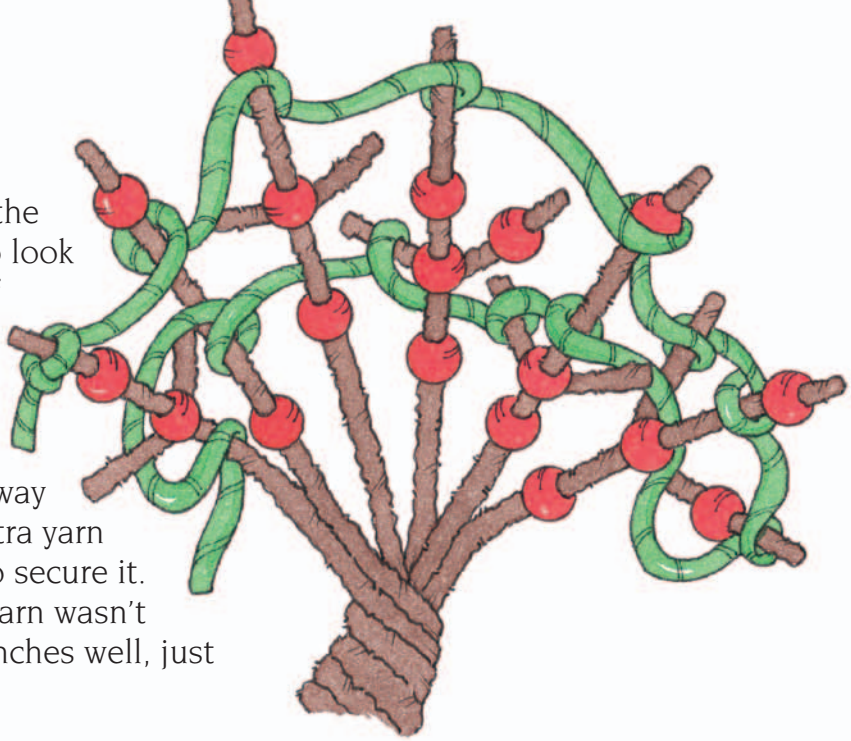
black sharp-pointed marker

what you do:



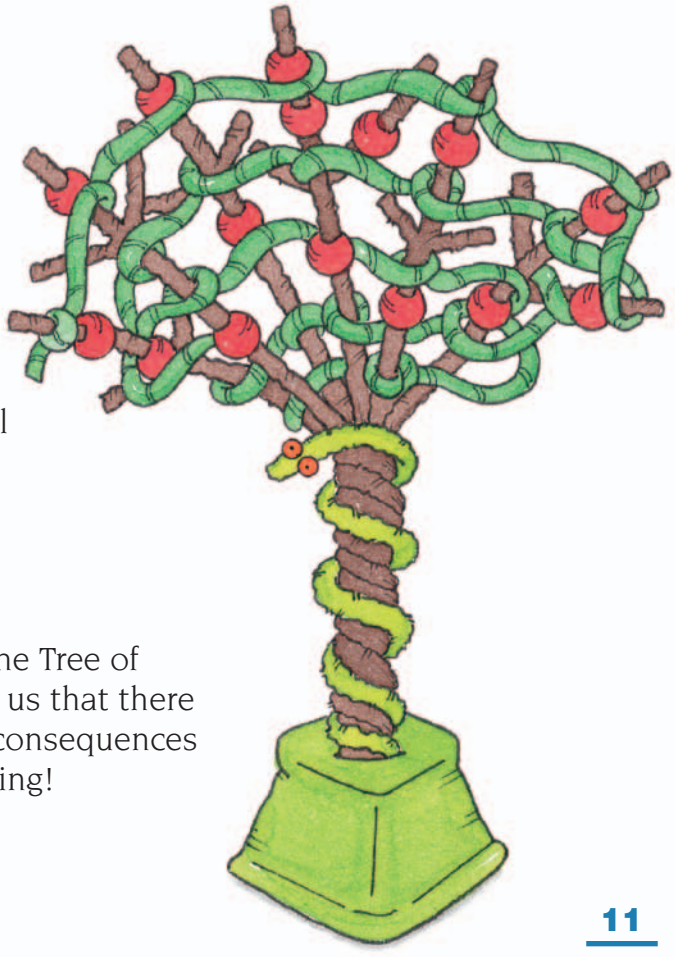
1 Fold three of the brown pipe cleaners in half. Twist them together above the folded ends to form a tree trunk, with the ends of the pipe cleaners fanning out to form the branches of the tree. Cut the last brown pipe cleaner into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces. Wrap the pieces around the branches of the tree to make smaller branches.

2 Slip the beads onto the branches to look like apples on the tree.



3 Wrap the branches of the tree with green yarn to look like the leaves. Tie one end of a long piece of yarn to a branch, then weave it in and out through the branches until the branches are all entwined. When you like the way the tree looks, trim off any extra yarn and tie the end to a branch to secure it. If you feel your first piece of yarn wasn't long enough to cover the branches well, just tie on another piece.

4 Cut a cup from the cardboard egg carton and paint it green. Let it dry. Turn the cup over and poke a hole in the center to slip the base of the tree through to make a stand for the tree.



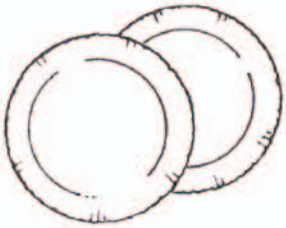
5 Wrap the green sparkle stem around the base of the tree to look like the serpent. Cut two tiny eyes for the serpent from the orange paper scrap. Use the black marker to put a pupil in the center of each eye. Glue the eyes to the end of the green sparkle stem.

The serpent in the Tree of Knowledge reminds us that there are sometimes sad consequences of disobeying!

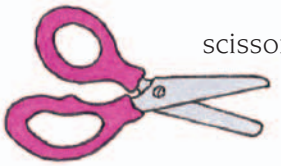
Read in Genesis 6 why Noah built a great ark and filled it with two of each kind of animal .

Noah's Ark

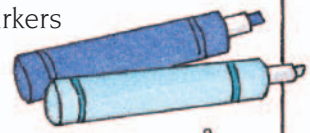
you need:



two 9-inch (23-cm) uncoated paper plates

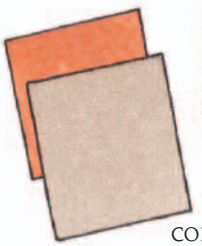


scissors



markers

white glue



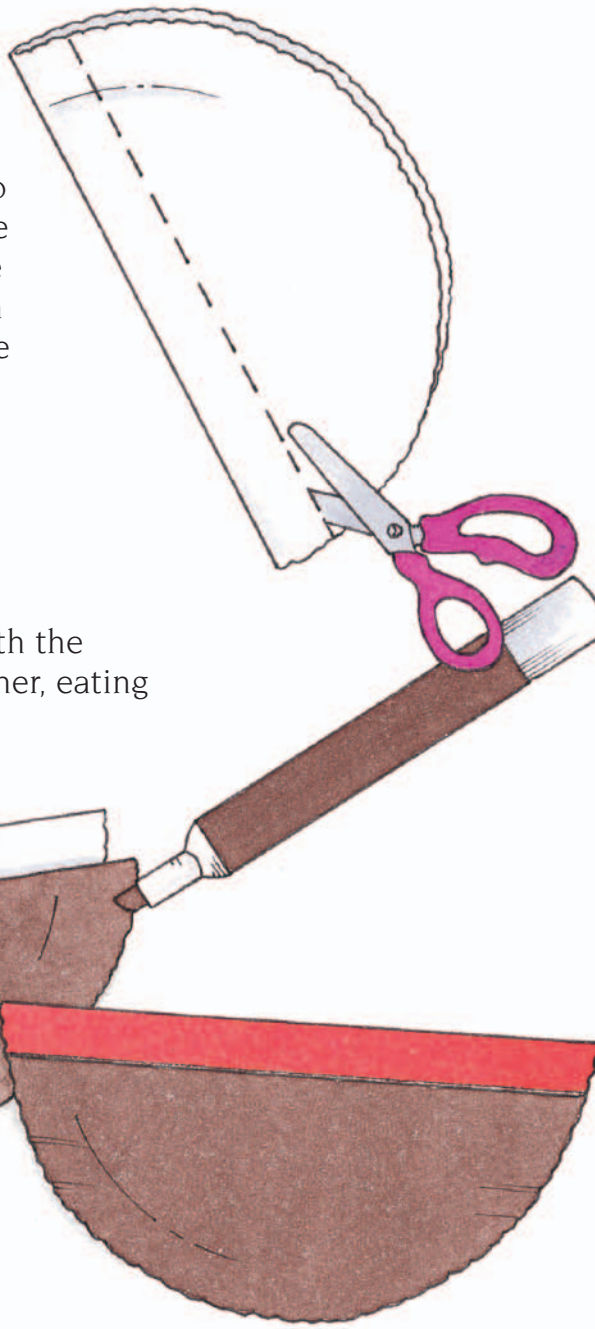
colored construction paper for animals

blue colored glue

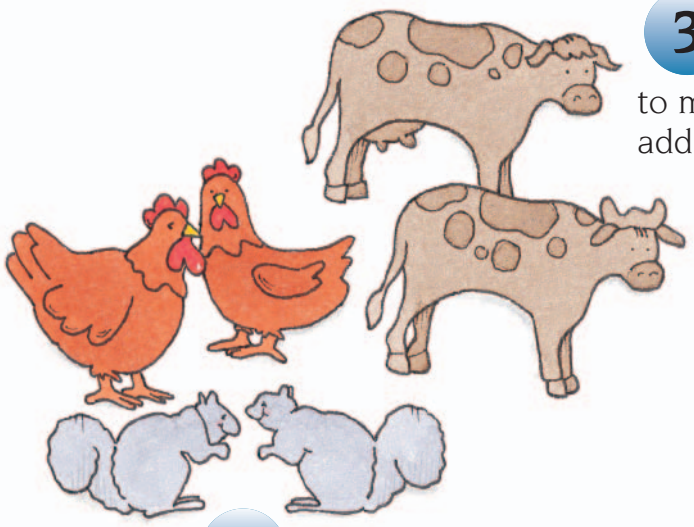
paper fastener

what you do:

1 Fold one plate in half so that you know where the center is located. Cut the plate into two pieces about 1/2 inch (1.25 cm) off center so that one piece is about 1 inch (2.5 cm) bigger than the other piece.



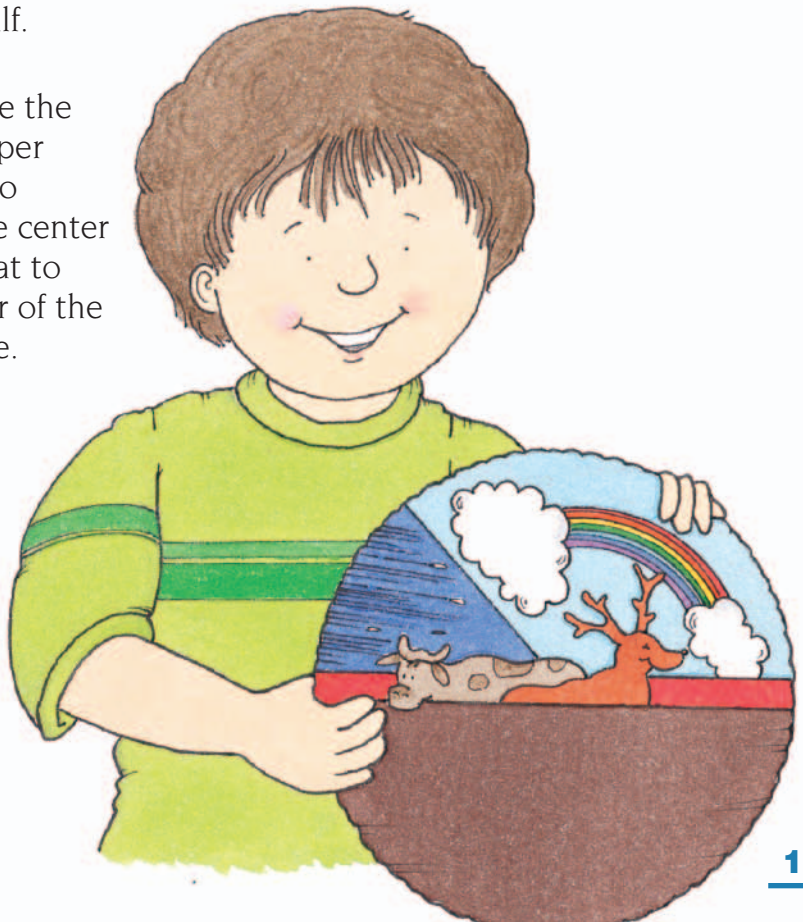
2 Color the two pieces with the markers, then glue them together, eating sides in, to form the boat.



3 Cut animals from the construction paper to put in the ark. Don't forget to make two of each animal. Use markers to add details to the animals.

4 Draw a line across the center of the second paper plate. Use the markers to color a storm scene on one half of the plate. If you wish you can put raindrops on your storm scene using drops of blue glue. Turn the plate upside down and color a rainbow in a blue sky with a dove carrying an olive branch on the other half.

5 Use the paper fastener to attach the center of the boat to the center of the back plate.



Put your animals on board. To change the scene from the forty days of rain to the promise of dry land, turn the back plate around.

In Genesis 18, God keeps His promise to Abraham and his wife Sarah and gives them a baby, Isaac, in their old age.

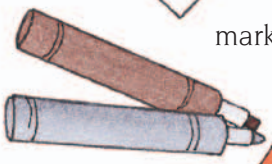
Sarah and Baby Isaac Puppet

you need:

scissors

pink and white felt scraps

markers



white glue

old mitten

ruler

piece of fabric big enough to wrap around mitten

what you do:

1 From the pink felt, cut a circle for Sarah's face. Make the circle about as wide as the top of the mitten you are using. Draw a face on the felt circle using the markers. Glue the face to the top, palm side of the mitten.

2 Cut a tiny circle about as wide as the thumb of the mitten for the baby's face. Use the markers to draw on facial features. Glue the face to the top of the thumb of the mitten.

3 Cut a 3-inch (8-cm) triangle from the white felt for the baby's blanket. Wrap it around the thumb of the mitten with the baby's face peeking out. Glue the blanket in place.

4 Cut a rectangle of fabric large enough to wrap around the mitten and base of the thumb for Sarah's clothes. Wrap it around the mitten with the face peeking out and glue the fabric to the mitten.

To use the puppet slip your hand into the mitten and wiggle the little baby Isaac that Sarah is holding in her arms.

Read about Jacob and his dream of angels going up and down a ladder from earth to heaven in Genesis 28.

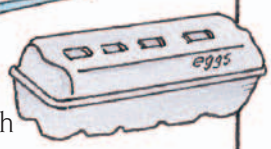
Jacob's Ladder

you need:

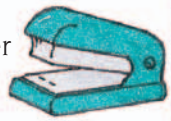
yellow poster paint and a paintbrush

scissors

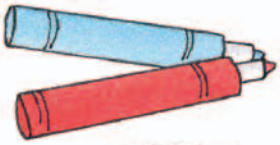
two cardboard egg cartons with vented tops



stapler



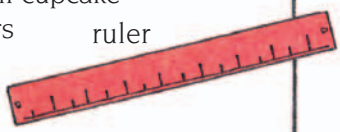
markers



string

three foil cupcake wrappers

ruler



paper scrap in skin color of your choice

three yellow paper cupcake wrappers

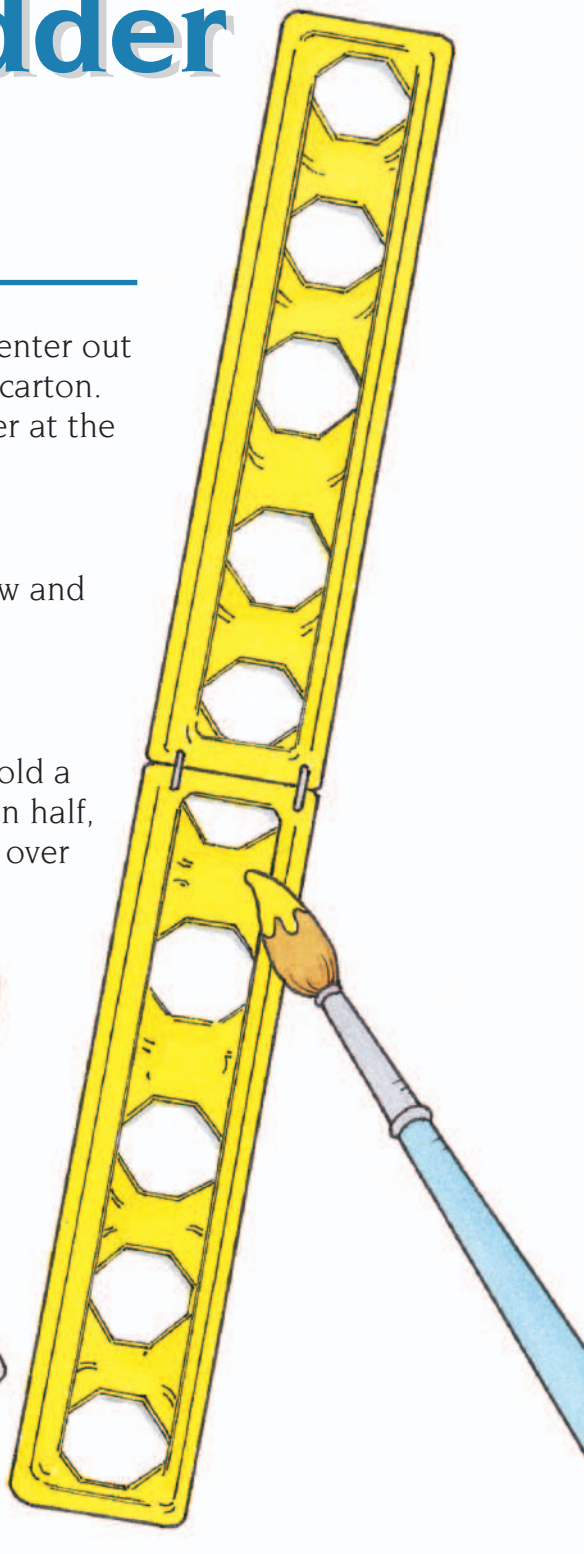
newspaper to work on

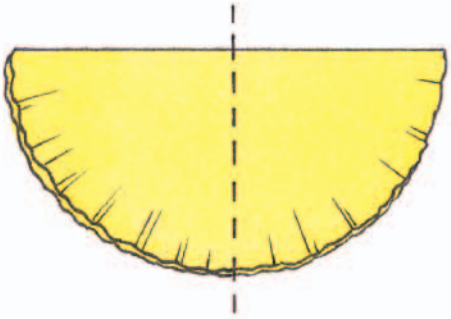
what you do:

1. Cut the long vented center out of the lid of each egg carton. Staple the two strips together at the center to form a ladder.

2. Paint the ladder yellow and let it dry.

3. To make each angel, fold a foil cupcake wrapper in half, then fold the two sides back over each other to make a dress.



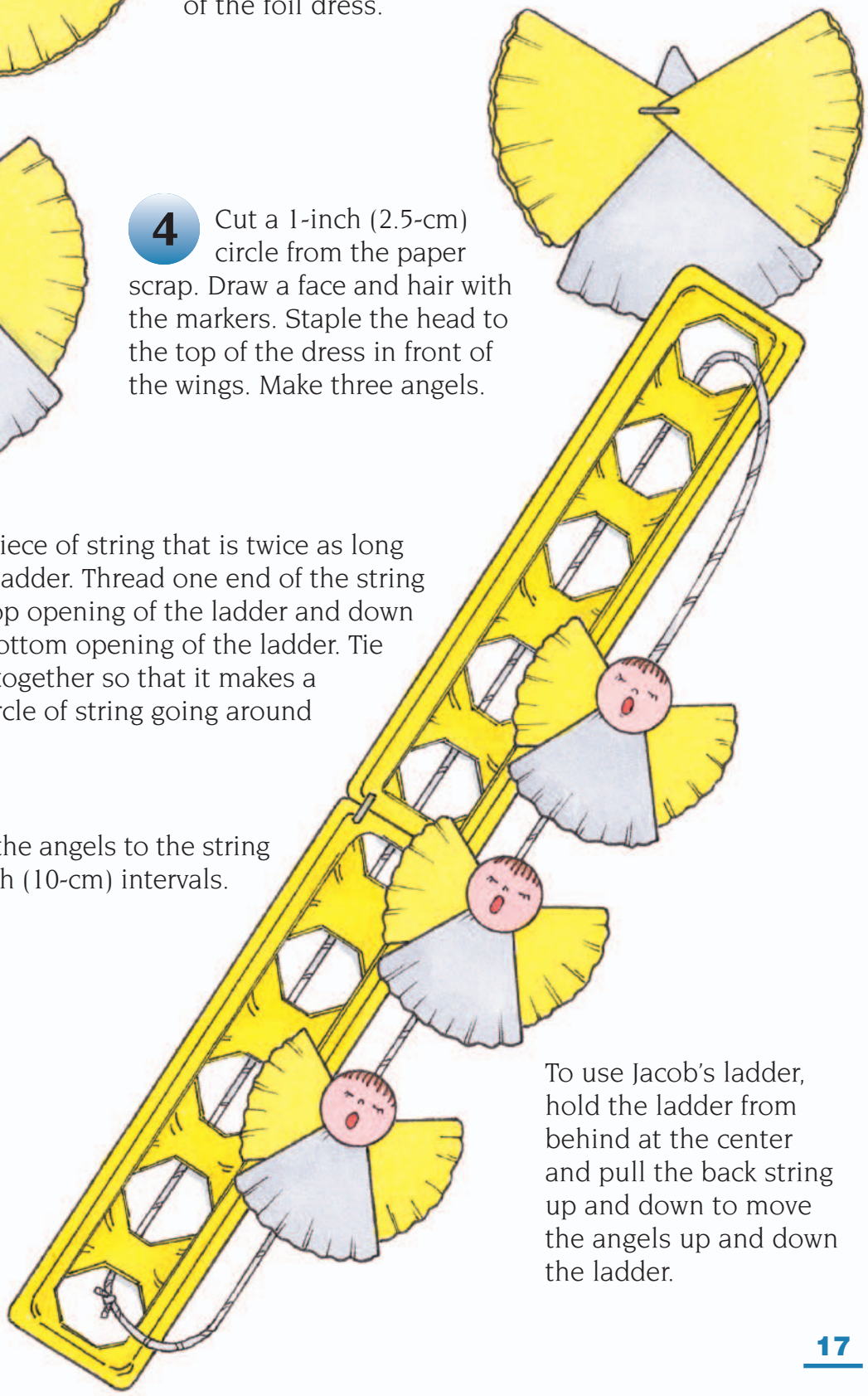


Fold a yellow cupcake wrapper in half. Cut it in half the short way to make two wings. Staple the two wings sticking out from behind each side of the top of the foil dress.

4 Cut a 1-inch (2.5-cm) circle from the paper scrap. Draw a face and hair with the markers. Staple the head to the top of the dress in front of the wings. Make three angels.

5 Cut a piece of string that is twice as long as the ladder. Thread one end of the string through the top opening of the ladder and down through the bottom opening of the ladder. Tie the two ends together so that it makes a continuous circle of string going around the ladder.

6 Staple the angels to the string at 4-inch (10-cm) intervals.



To use Jacob's ladder, hold the ladder from behind at the center and pull the back string up and down to move the angels up and down the ladder.

Genesis 37 tells about Joseph's colorful coat and the trouble it got him into!

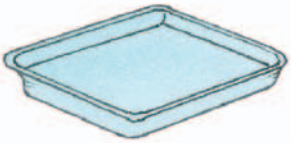
Joseph Magnet

you need:

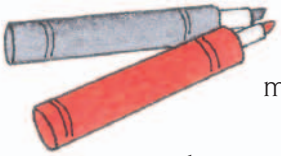
white glue

ruler

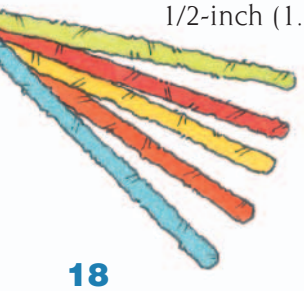
scissors


Styrofoam tray to work on

black and green yarn


black and red sharp-pointed permanent markers

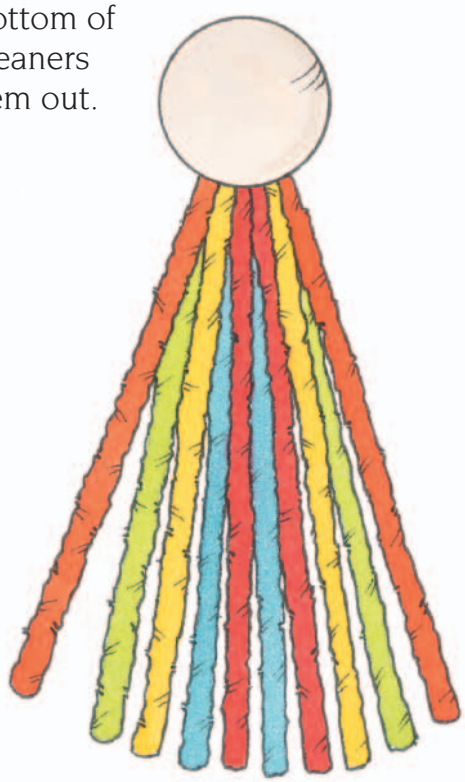
1-inch (2.5-cm) wooden bead with 1/2-inch (1.25-cm) opening


pipe cleaners in five bright colors

piece of sticky-backed magnet

what you do:

1 Trim five different colored pipe cleaners to a length of 8 inches (20 cm). Bunch the pipe cleaners together and fold them in half. Dip the folded end in glue and stick it into the hole in the bead. The bead will be the head and the pipe cleaners the colorful coat. Trim the bottom of the pipe cleaners to even them out.

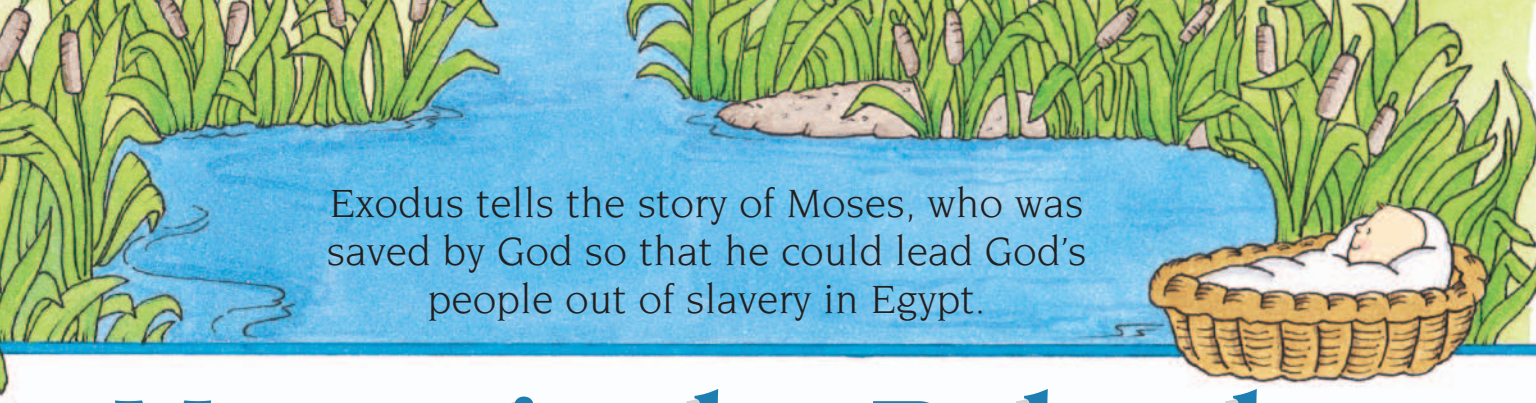


2 Cut one 3-inch (8-cm) piece from each of three different colored pipe cleaners for the sleeves of the coat. Slide them up between the pipe cleaners, forming the coat, and glue them in place. Tie a belt of green yarn around the coat just below the arms to help secure them.

3 Use the markers to draw a face on the bead. Glue on bits of black yarn for the hair.

4 Press a piece of sticky-backed magnet on the back of the pipe-cleaner coat and hang the project on your refrigerator.

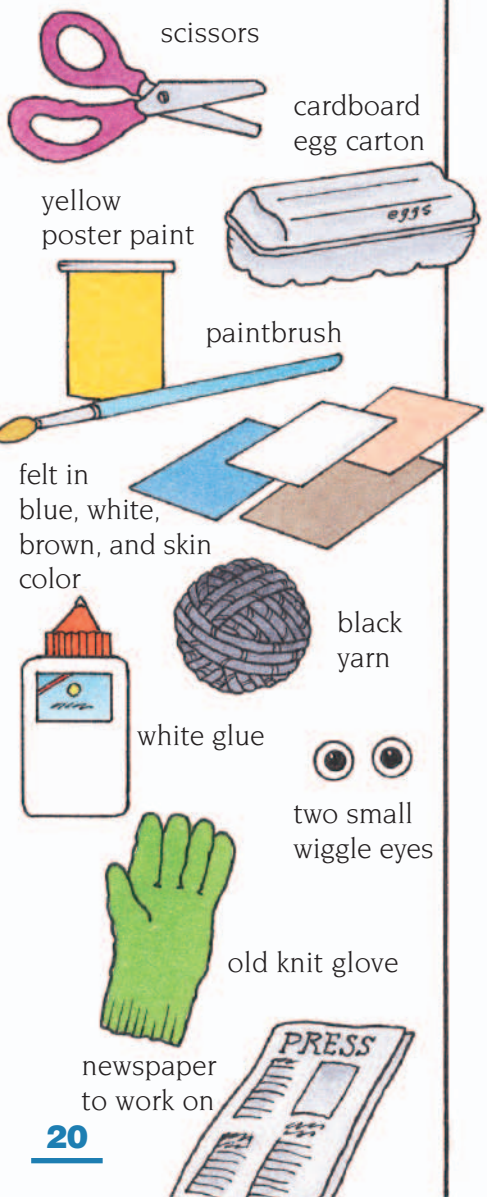
The story of Joseph is a wonderful reminder that even when things seem hopeless, we should never give up.



Exodus tells the story of Moses, who was saved by God so that he could lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt.

Moses in the Bulrushes Glove Puppet

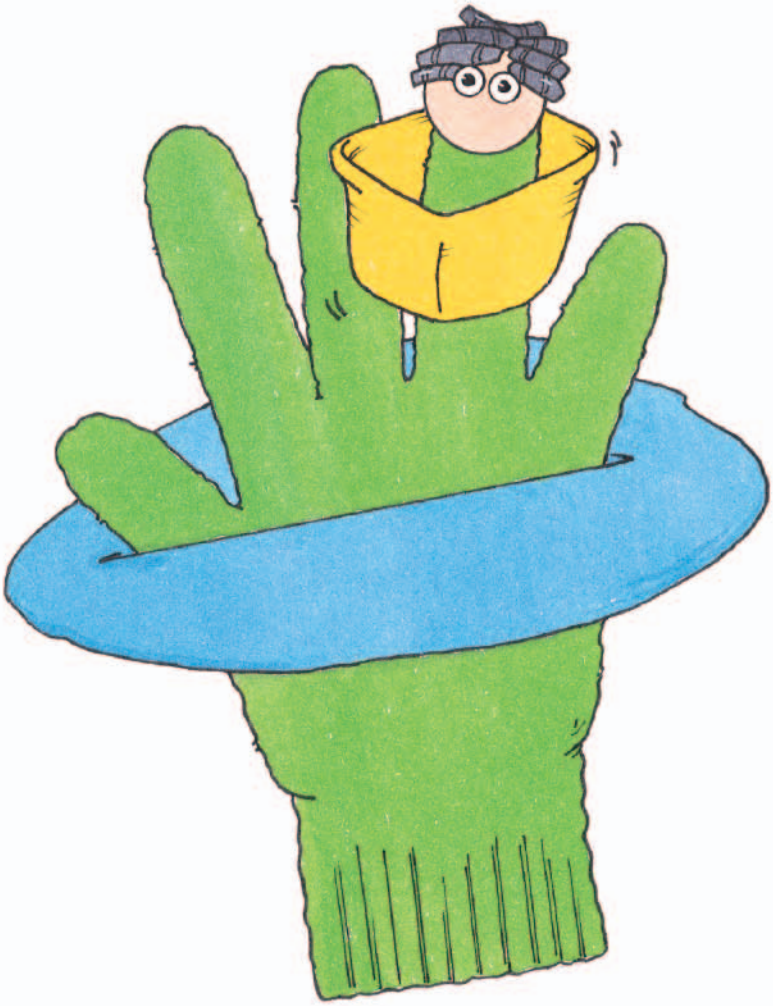
you need:



what you do:

1 Cut one egg cup from the egg carton. Cut a hole through one side of the bottom of the cup large enough to put your finger through. Paint the cup yellow and let it dry. This will be the basket for baby Moses.

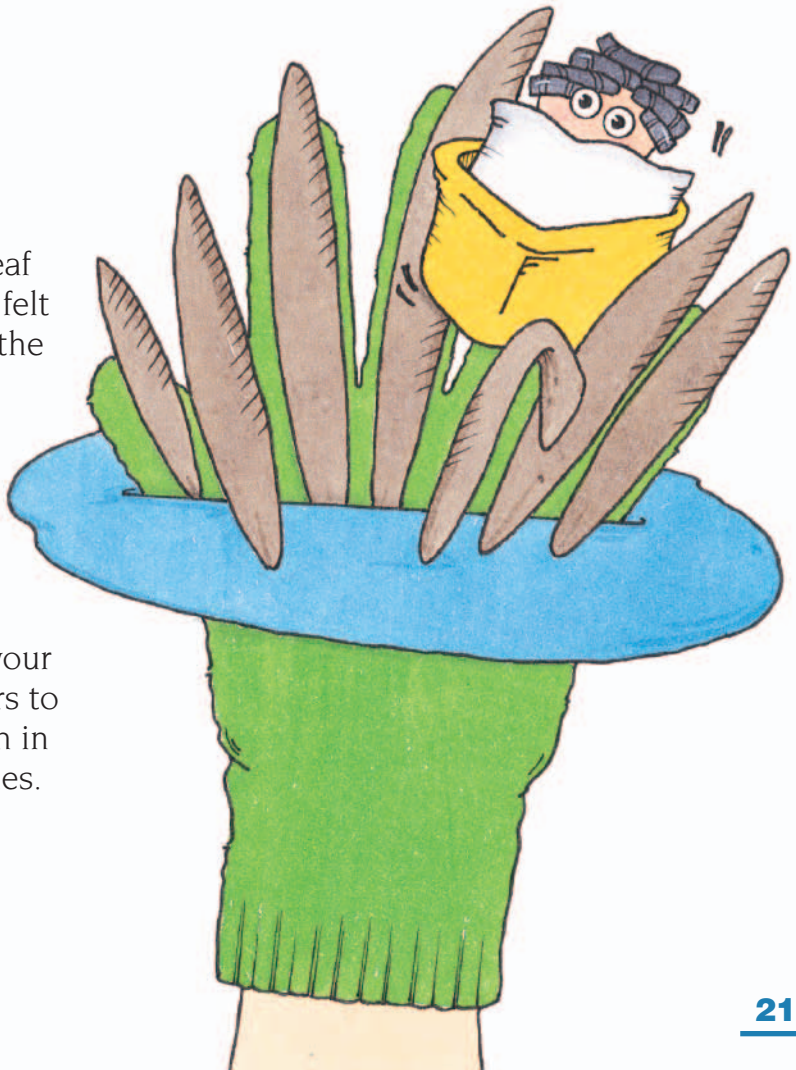
2 From the blue felt, cut a pool of water that is wider than the glove. Cut a slit across the middle of the pool and slide it over the fingers and thumb of the glove so that the water surrounds them.



3 Slide the basket down over one of the middle fingers of the glove. Cut a 1-inch (2.5-cm) circle of skin-color felt for the head of the baby and glue it to the tip of the finger in the basket. Glue yarn bits to the top of the head for hair. Glue two wiggle eyes below the hair.

4 Cut a square of white felt for a blanket. Glue the blanket in the egg cup so that only the baby's eyes are peeking out.

5 Cut about seven long leaf shapes from the brown felt for the bulrushes that grew in the river. Glue them on the fingers and in the water so that the basket looks like it is floating among them.

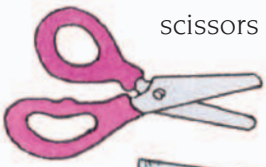


To use the glove puppet put your hand in and wiggle your fingers to bob baby Moses up and down in the water among the bulrushes.

Read Exodus 14 to learn about the parting of the waters of the Red Sea to let the Israelites escape from slavery.

The Parting of the Red Sea

you need:

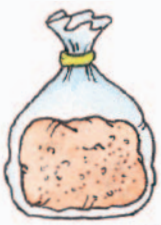

scissors

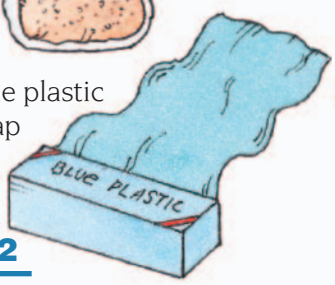
large zip-to-close bag

stapler

white glue

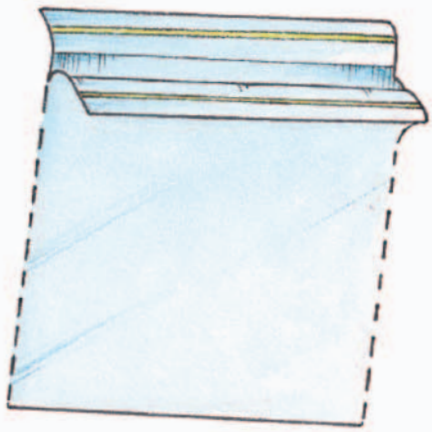
light-weight cardboard


sand



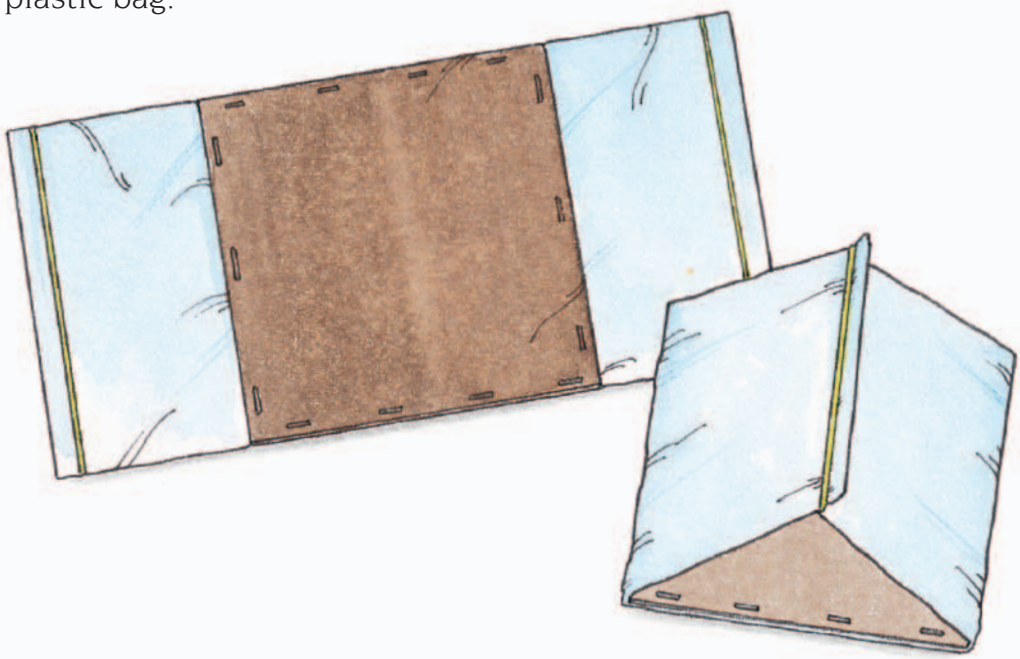
blue plastic wrap

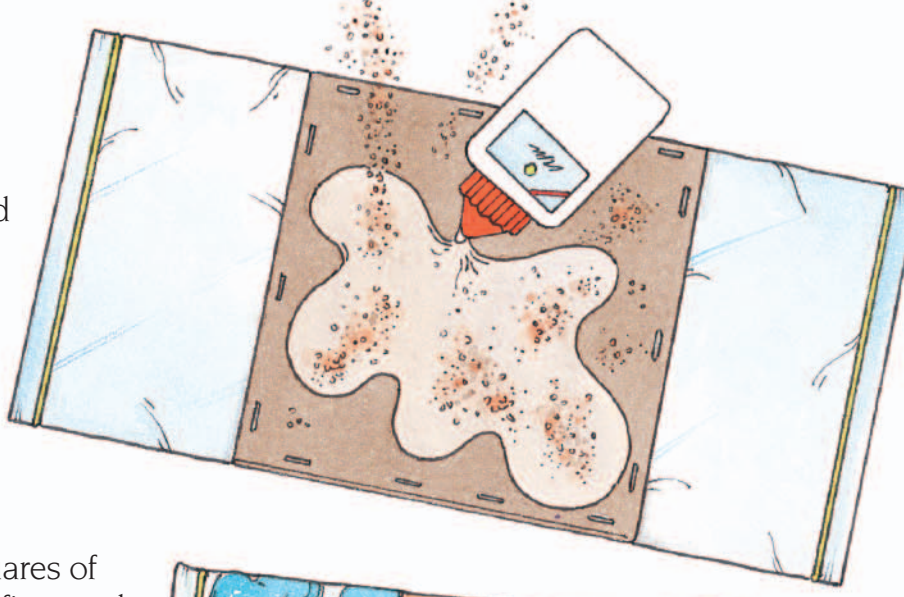
what you do:



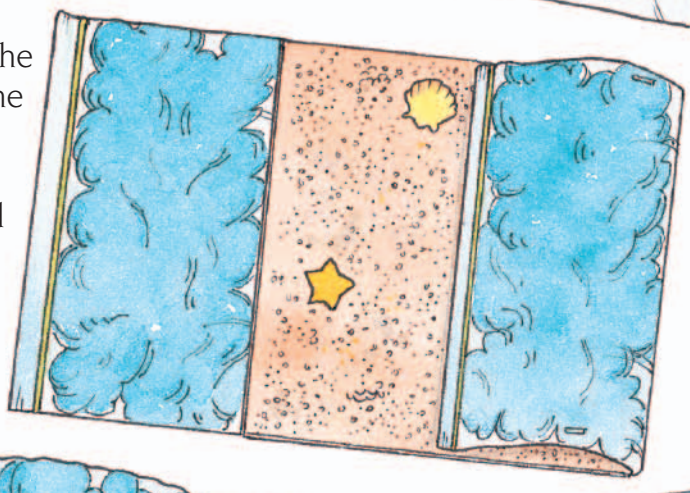
1 Carefully cut down the two sides of the zip-to-close bag and open it out flat.

2 Cut a square of light-weight cardboard that will fit exactly in the center of the flattened bag and allow the bag to fold up over each side of the cardboard and zip closed. Staple the cardboard to the plastic bag.

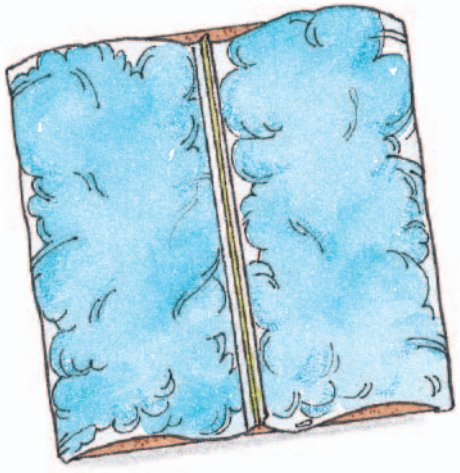




3 Cover the cardboard with glue, then sprinkle it with sand to look like the bottom of the sea. You may want to add some cut-out starfish or seashells.



4 Crumble several squares of blue plastic wrap to fit over the flap of plastic bag on each side of the ocean bottom. Attach the crumbled pieces to the inside and outside of the bag flaps using a stapler to hold them in place. Use just enough pieces to cover the flaps. If you make it too thick the two flaps will no longer meet and close over the sandy bottom. Do not staple too close to the zipper.



Close the waters over the sandy bottom by zipping the two sides together. Show how the waters parted for Moses and the Israelites, then closed again once they were safely across.

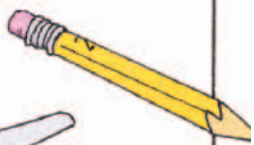
Read in Joshua 6 how Joshua's faith in God enabled him to blow his horn hard enough to make the mighty walls of the city of Jericho fall down.

Ram Horn Trumpet

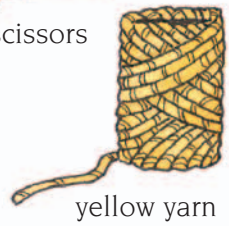
you need:

brown grocery bag

ruler


pencil

scissors


yellow yarn

white glue

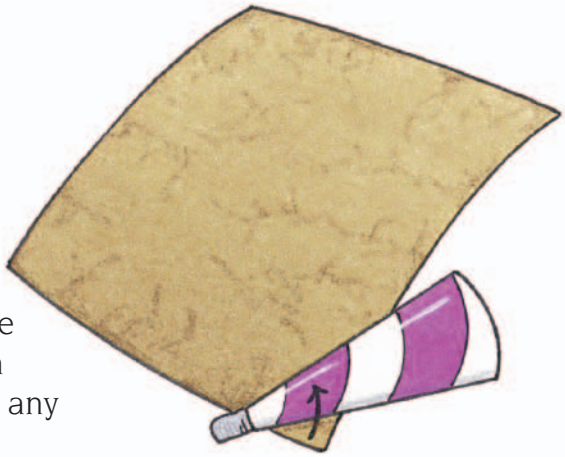
paper party horn

paintbrush

newspaper to work on

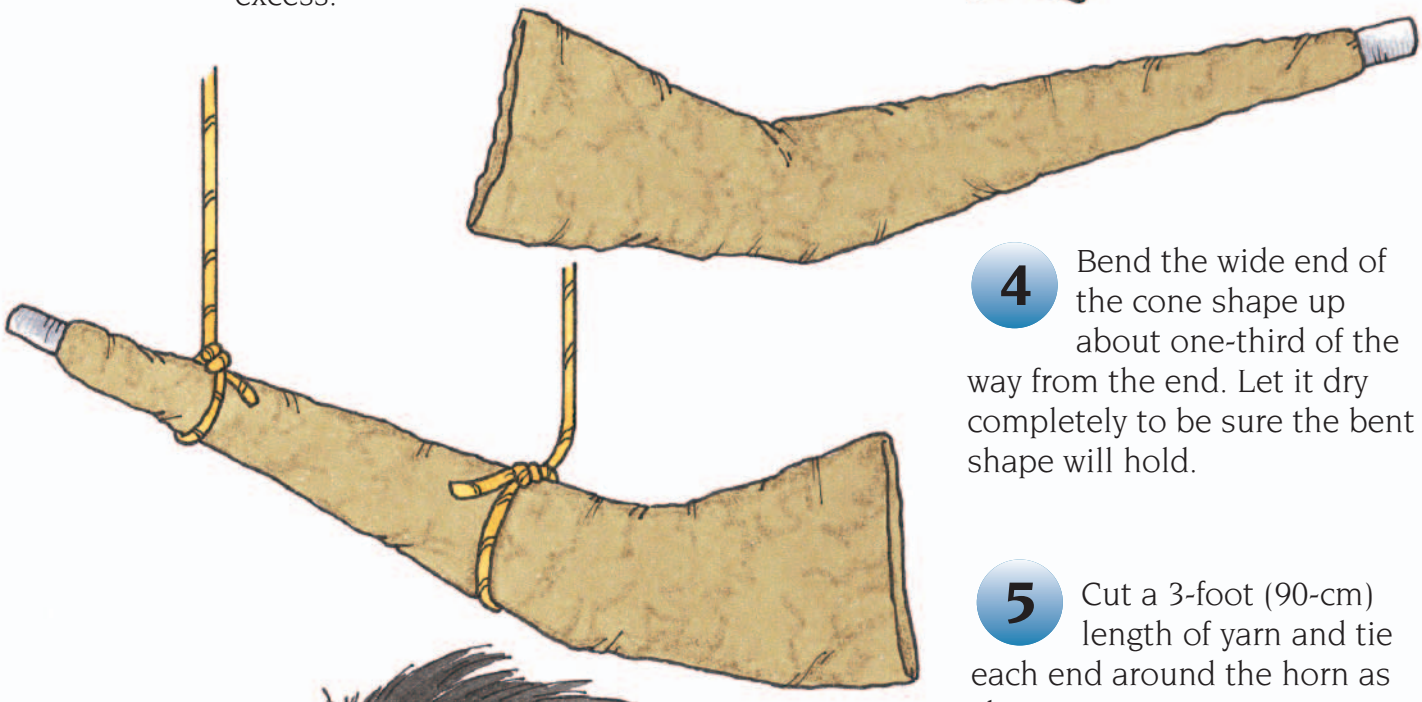
what you do:

1 Cut a 12-inch (30-cm) square piece from the brown bag.



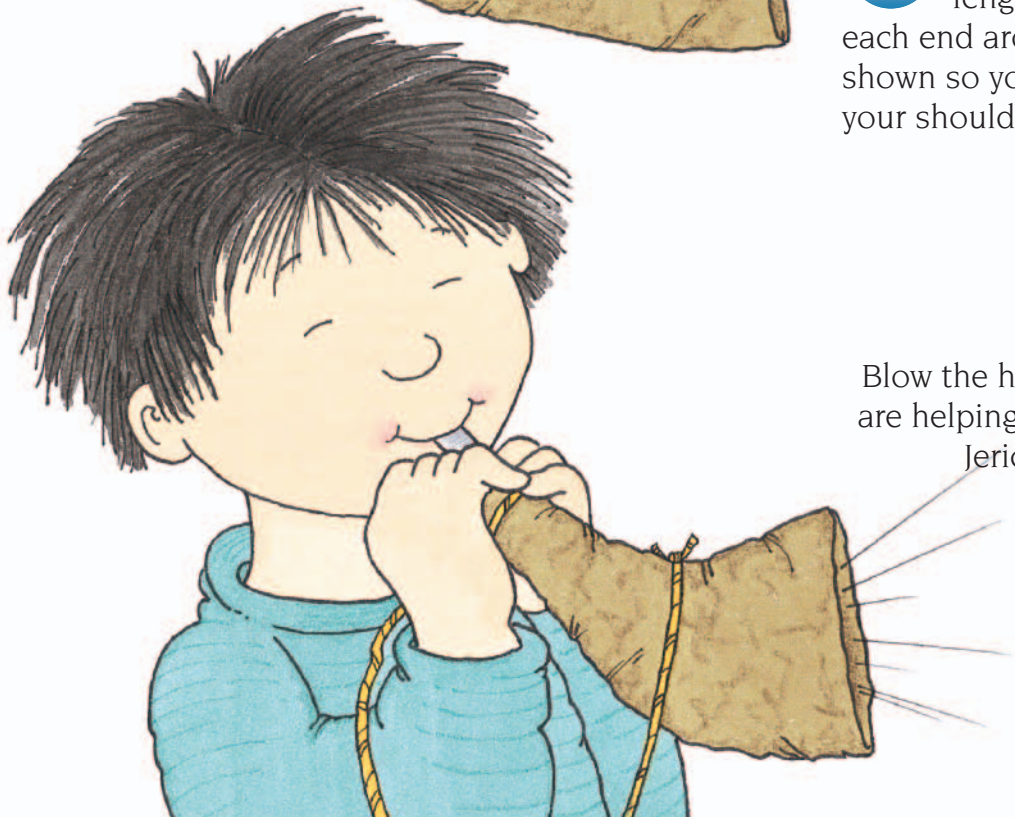
2 Use the paintbrush to spread white glue all over one side of the square.

3 Starting at one corner, roll the square around the party horn and into a cone shape, trimming off any excess.

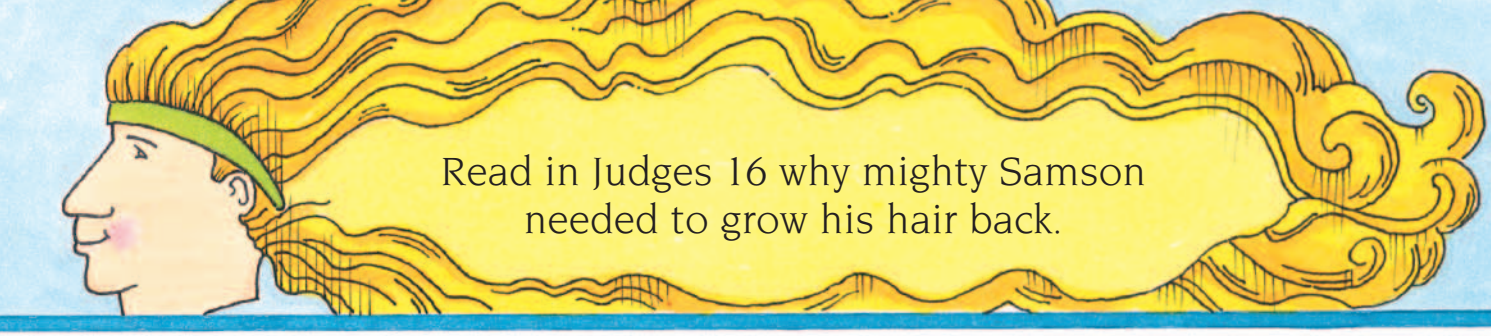


4 Bend the wide end of the cone shape up about one-third of the way from the end. Let it dry completely to be sure the bent shape will hold.

5 Cut a 3-foot (90-cm) length of yarn and tie each end around the horn as shown so you can carry it over your shoulder.



Blow the horn and imagine you are helping to make the walls of Jericho fall down.



Read in Judges 16 why mighty Samson needed to grow his hair back.

Hair-Growing Samson

you need:

pencil

construction paper in skin color

white glue

markers

scissors

cardboard toilet-tissue tube

cardboard egg carton

dirt

Styrofoam egg carton

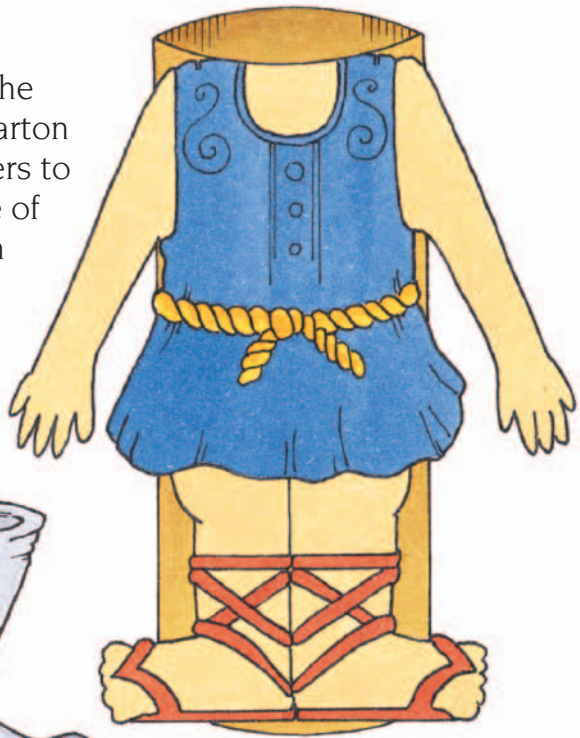
grass seed

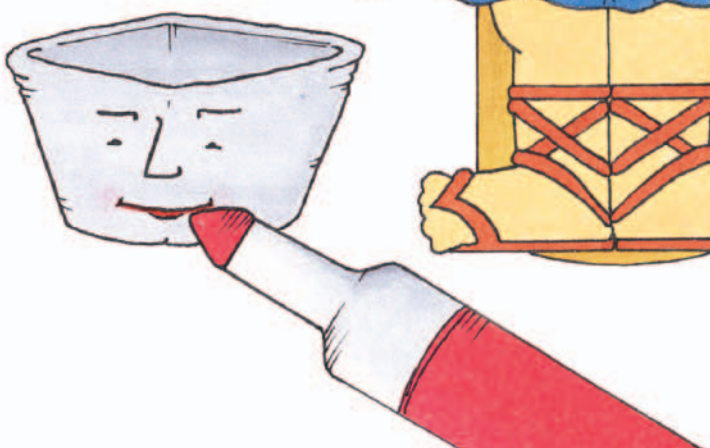
water

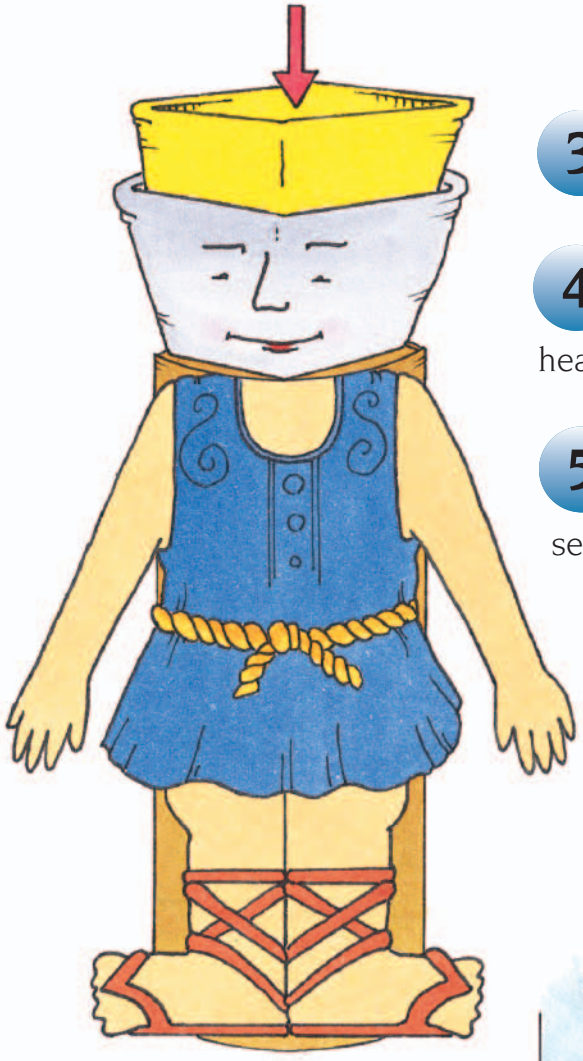
what you do:

1 Draw a body for Samson on the construction paper as tall as the cardboard tube. Do not draw a head on the body. Use the markers to draw on clothes. Cut out the body and glue it to one side of the cardboard tube.

2 Cut a cup from the cardboard egg carton for the head. Use markers to draw a face on one side of the head, with the open end of the cup up.







3 Glue the head to the top of the body.

4 Cut a cup from the Styrofoam egg carton. Put it inside the cardboard cup head for a liner.

5 Fill the head with dirt and sprinkle with grass seed. Don't forget to water the seed lightly every few days.

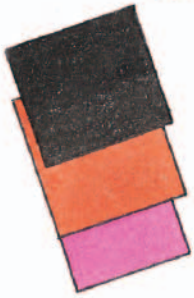
Can you put Samson in a sunny window and help him grow his hair back?

The Twenty-Third Psalm is a favorite of many Christians (Psalm 23).

Hand Lamb

you need:

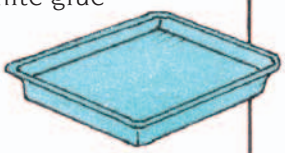
white crayon



black, brown, and pink construction paper

scissors

white glue



Styrofoam tray to work on

cotton balls

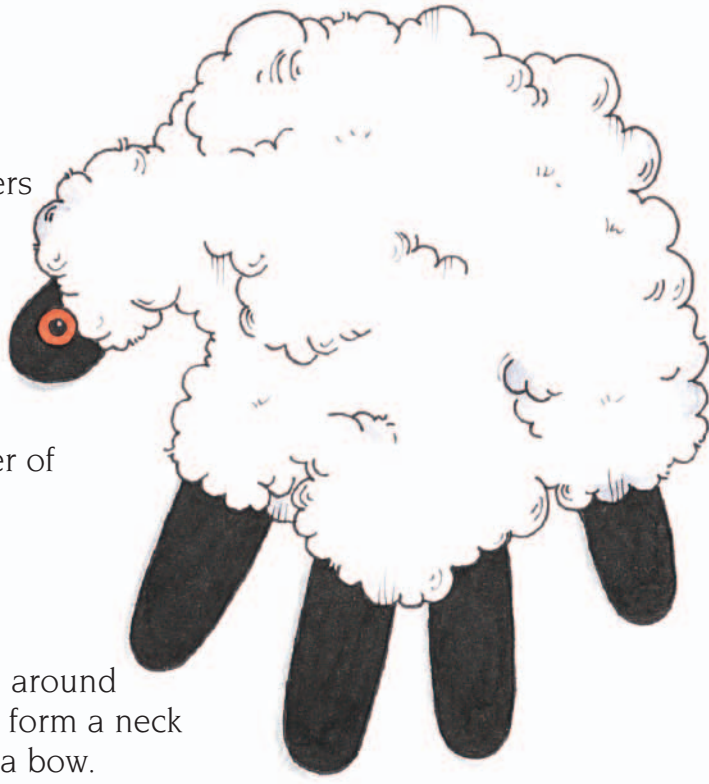
hole punch

black sharp-pointed marker

thin ribbon

what you do:

1 Use the white crayon to trace around your hand on the black paper. Cut the hand shape out.



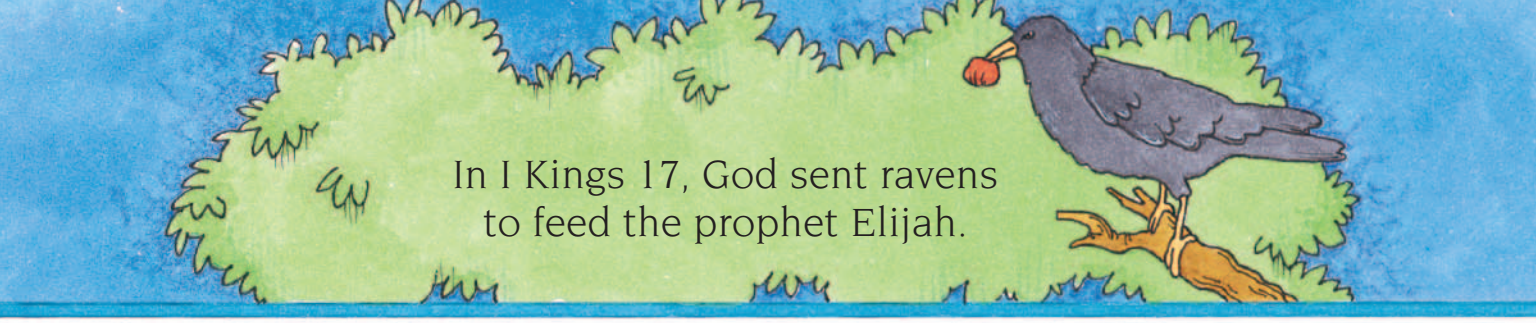
2 Cover the palm of the hand and the base of the thumb and fingers with glue. Then attach cotton balls to make a sheep.

3 Punch an eye for the sheep from the brown paper. Use the black marker to draw a dot in the center of the eye for a pupil. Glue the eye to the middle of the thumb.

4 Tie a piece of thin ribbon around the base of the thumb to form a neck for the sheep. Tie the ribbon in a bow.

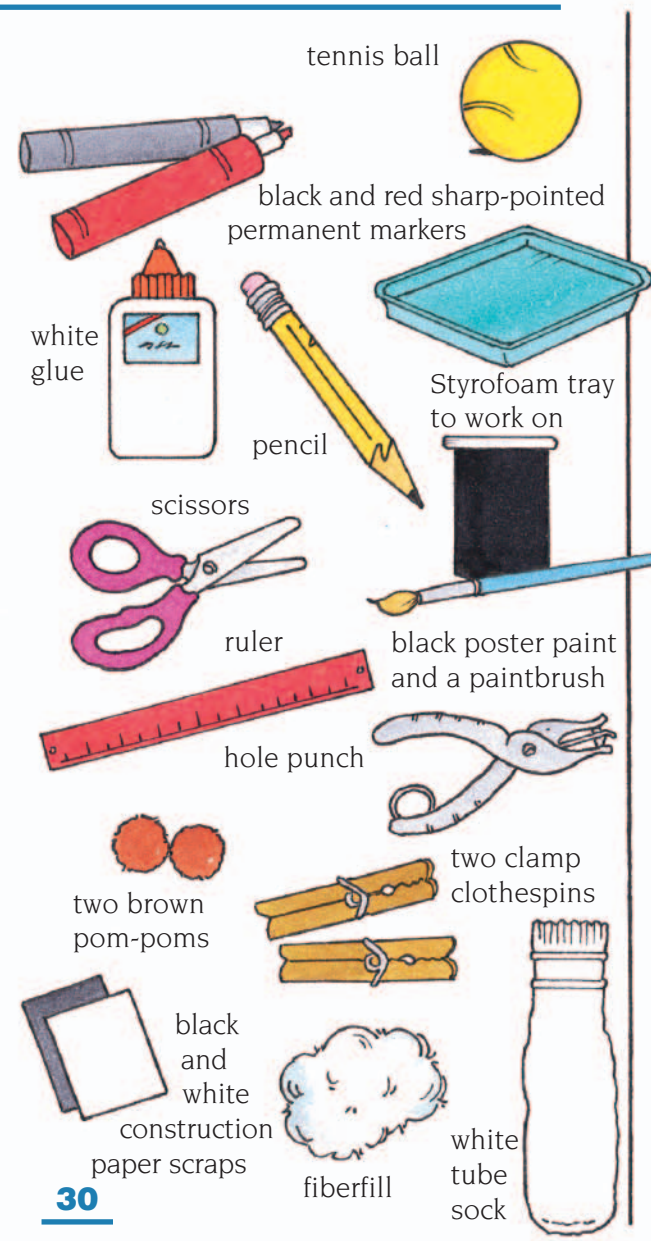
5 Cut a heart shape from the pink paper small enough to fit on the back of the sheep. Write "The Lord is my shepherd" and "Twenty-Third Psalm" on the heart with the marker. Glue the heart to the reverse side of the sheep.

This psalm compares God's caring for people to a shepherd caring for a flock.



Elijah and the Ravens Puppets

you need:



what you do:

1. Ask a grown-up to cut a 2-inch (5-cm) slit across one side of the tennis ball for a mouth for the puppet. You will also need a 1-inch (2.5-cm) slit cut in the bottom side of the ball to attach the body of the puppet.

2. Use the red marker to draw lips around the puppet's mouth. Draw the rest of the face with the black marker.

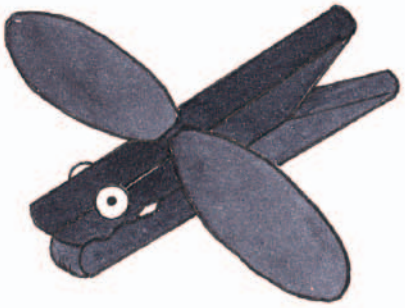
3. Glue on hair and a beard made from fiberfill—or you can make a shorter beard from cotton.

4 Trim the cuff of the tube sock so that you are left with a sock about 11 inches (28 cm) long. Use the pencil to help you stuff the toe of the sock into the slit in the bottom of the ball.

5 Draw arms and other details of the robe with the black marker.

6 The two clothespins will be the ravens. Paint them black and let them dry on the Styrofoam tray.

7 Cut wings for each bird from the black paper. Glue the wings on one side of each clothespin.



8 Punch out two eyes for each bird from the white paper. Use the black marker to draw a dot in the middle of each eye for a pupil. Glue the eyes to the top bar of each clothespin toward the clamp end.

9 To feed Elijah, put a pom-pom in each raven's mouth to represent the bread and the meat sent to Elijah by God. Hold each side of the head and squeeze to make the mouth open. Fly each raven to Elijah and squeeze the back of the clothespin to release the food into Elijah's mouth.

Have you ever thought about how your food is provided?

In Daniel 3 is the exciting story of how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to be faithful to God even if it meant death.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace

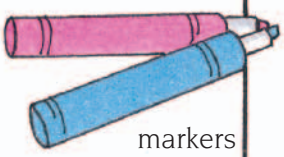
you need:

large-size oatmeal box with lid

scissors

ruler

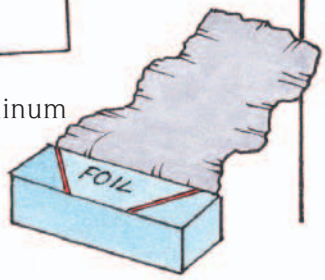
black permanent marker



markers

red, orange, and yellow tissue paper

white paper

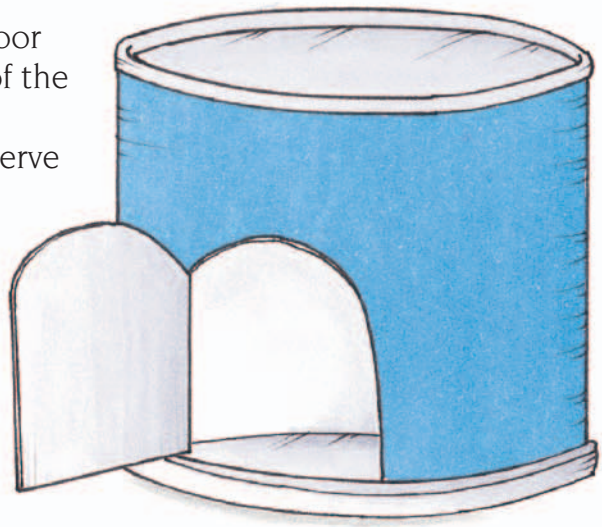


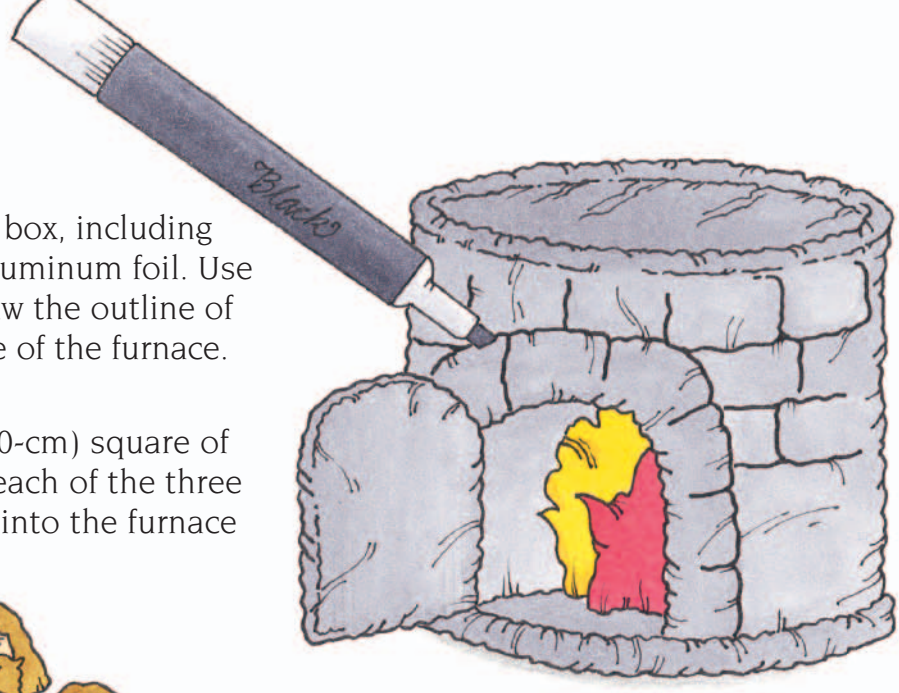
aluminum foil

what you do:

1 Cut off the top portion of the oatmeal box so that you are left with the box about 6 inches (15 cm) tall. Turn the box over to use to make the furnace.

2 Cut a rounded door out of one side of the box, leaving one side attached to the box to serve as a hinge so that the door will open and close. Close the door and put the lid over the cut portion of the box to form the bottom of the furnace. You will need to trim off some of the bottom part of the door so that it will open and close without getting caught on the lip of the lid.



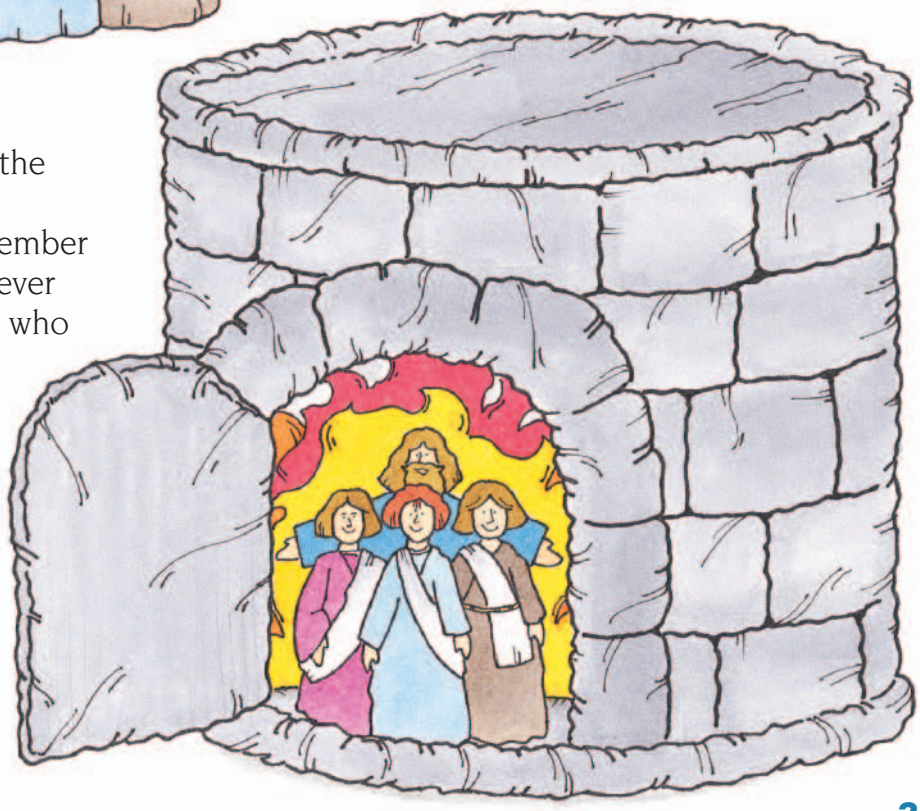


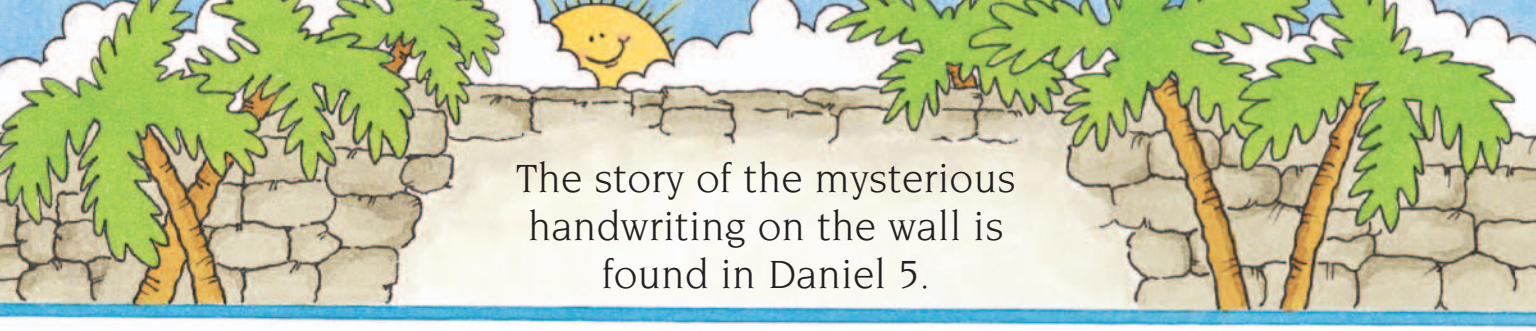
3 Cover the entire box, including the door, with aluminum foil. Use the black marker to draw the outline of stones over the outside of the furnace.

4 Cut a 12-inch (30-cm) square of tissue paper in each of the three colors. Tuck the tissue into the furnace to look like flames.

5 Draw a small picture of the three youths with the mysterious fourth person standing behind them who was said to look like the son of God. Cut around the picture and tuck it into the furnace.

Whenever you open the door to look in the furnace you will remember that situations are never impossible for those who have faith.

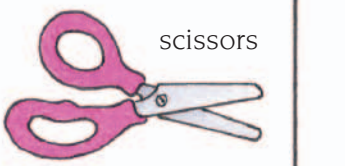




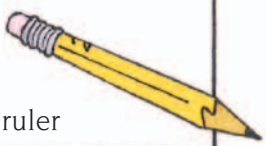
The story of the mysterious handwriting on the wall is found in Daniel 5.

The Handwriting Appears on the Wall

you need:



scissors

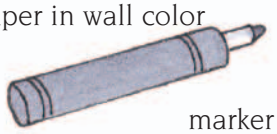


pencil

ruler

white glue

12- by 18-inch (30- by 46-cm) sheet of construction paper in wall color

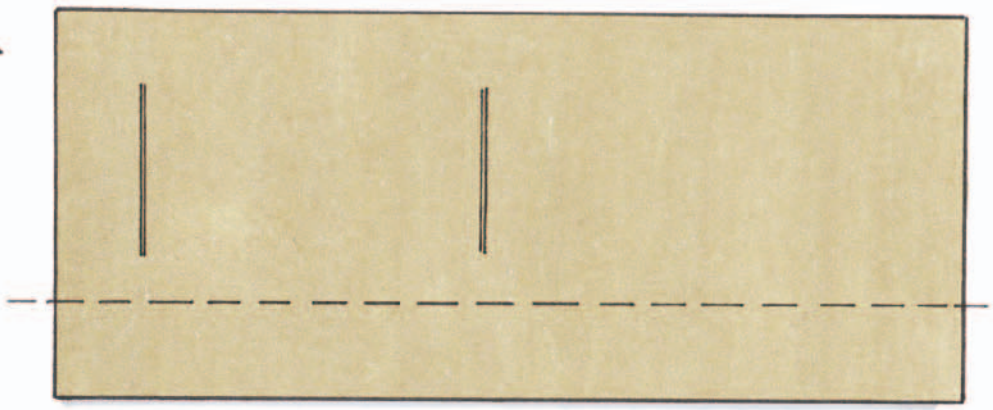


marker

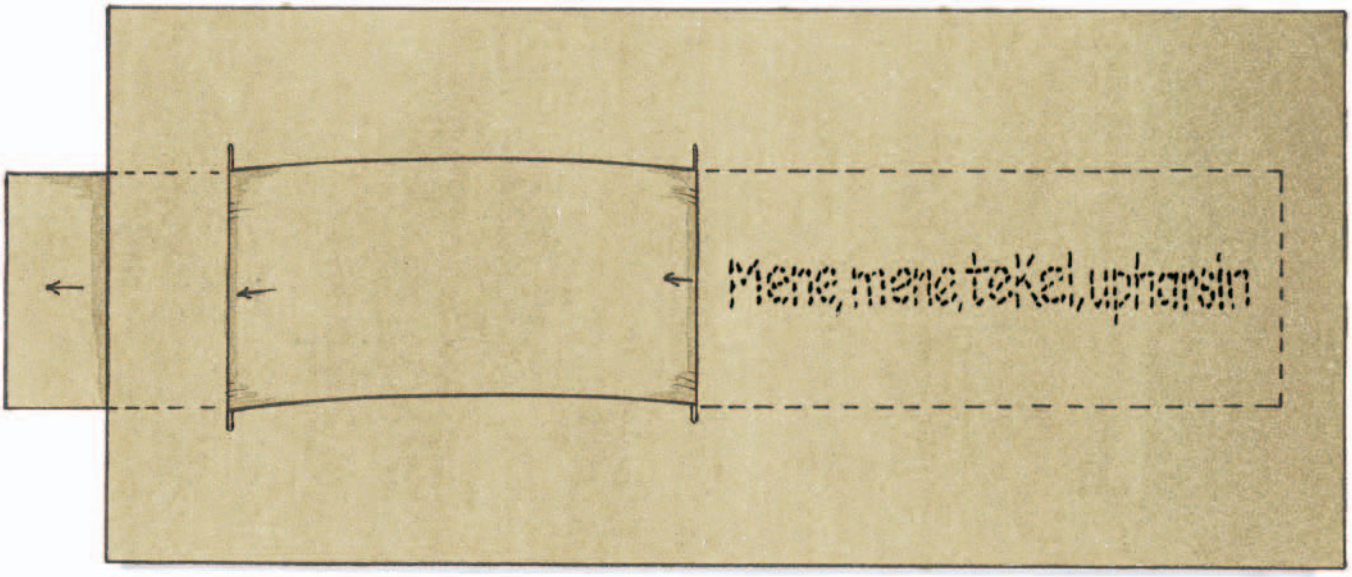
construction paper in skin color

what you do:

1 Cut a 3- by 18-inch (8- by 46-cm) strip off the bottom of the construction paper you are using for the wall.



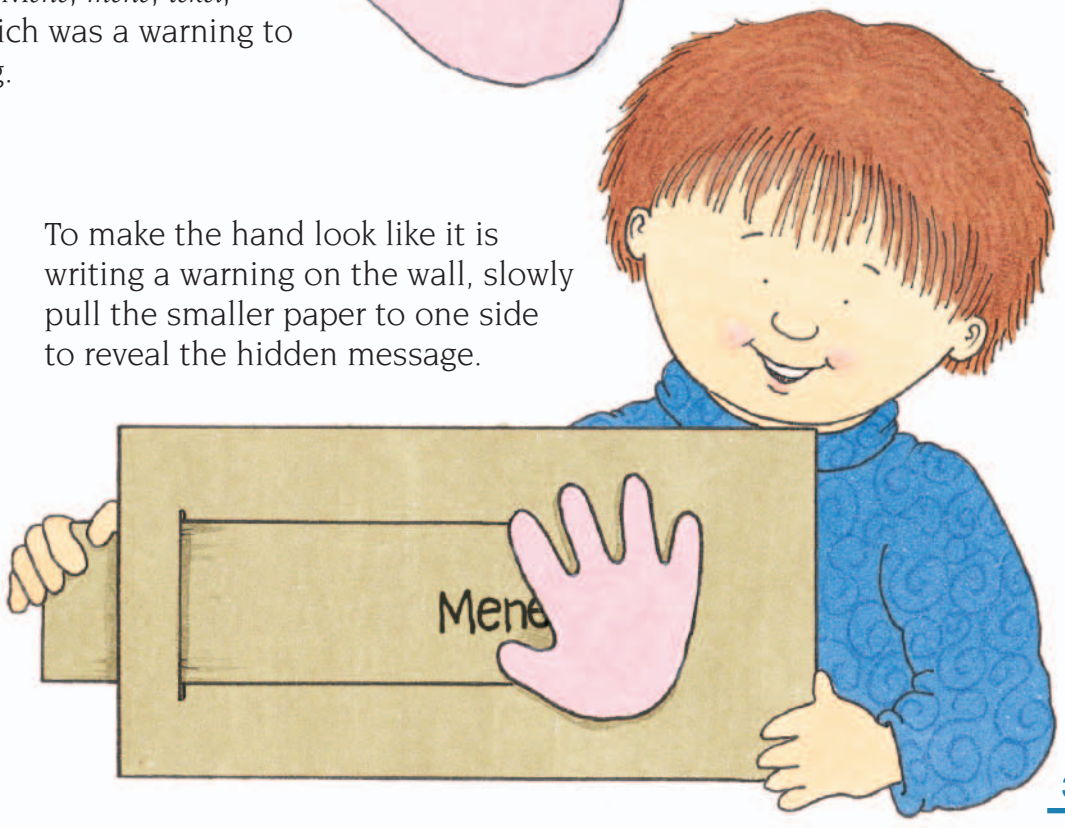
2 Cut a 4-inch (10-cm) slit up the middle of one side of the larger sheet of paper. Cut a parallel slit about 9 inches (23 cm) to the left of the first cut.

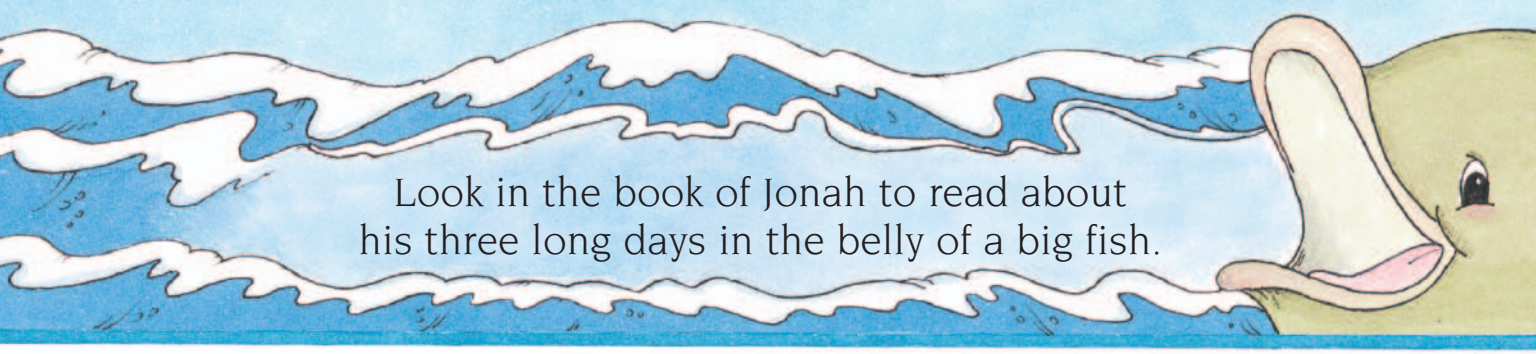


3 Slide the strip of paper in through the back of the middle cut, over the front of the paper, and through the cut on the edge. When the paper is exactly lined up behind the larger sheet, the wall should look blank. On the part of the paper that is hidden behind the larger paper write *Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin*, which was a warning to the evil king.

4 Trace your hand on the construction paper in the skin color. Cut out the hand outline. Glue the hand to the paper on the wall so that the fingers cover the center slit in the paper.

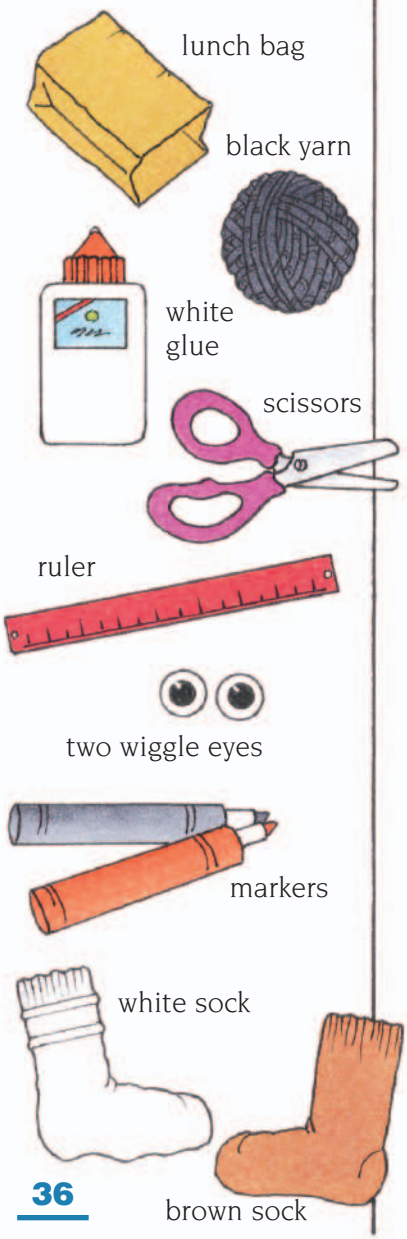
To make the hand look like it is writing a warning on the wall, slowly pull the smaller paper to one side to reveal the hidden message.





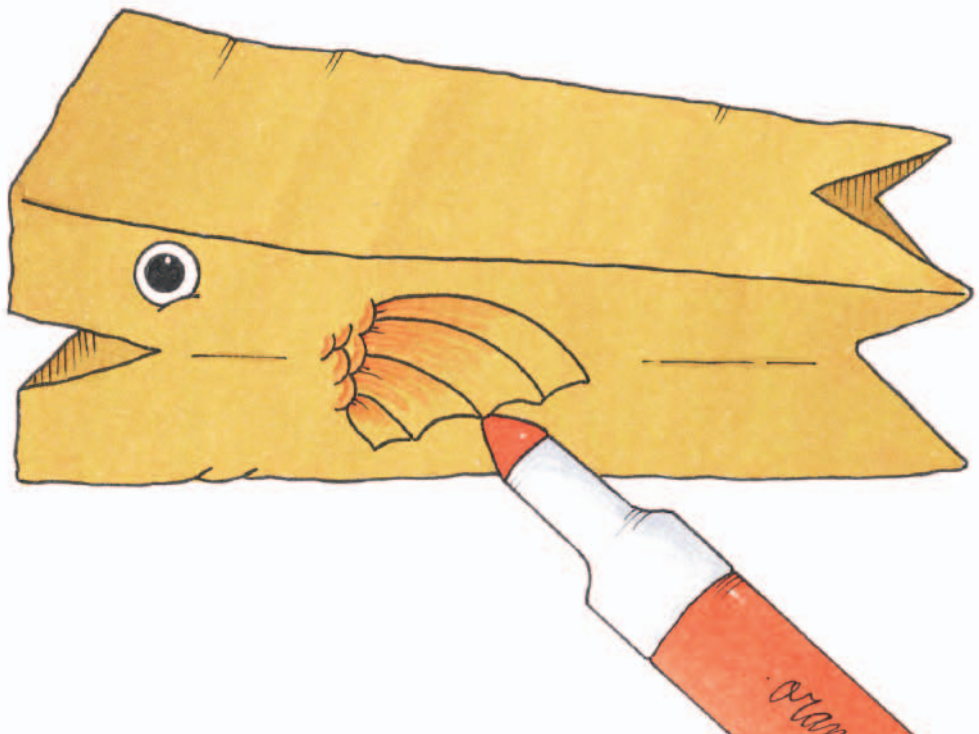
Jonah in the Big Fish Puppet

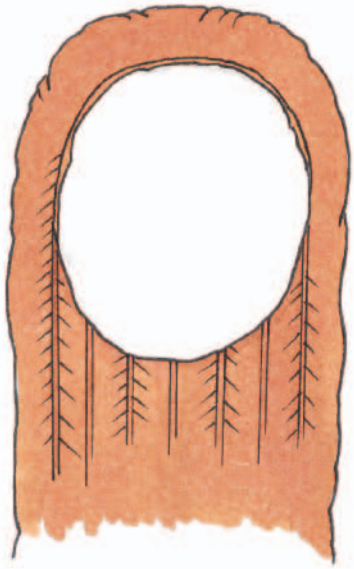
you need:



what you do:

1 To turn the lunch bag into a big fish cut a triangle out of the open end to form a tail. Cut an opening across the bottom of the bag and about 1 inch (2.5 cm) up each side to make the open mouth of the fish. Use markers to draw on eyes and any other details you might want to add.



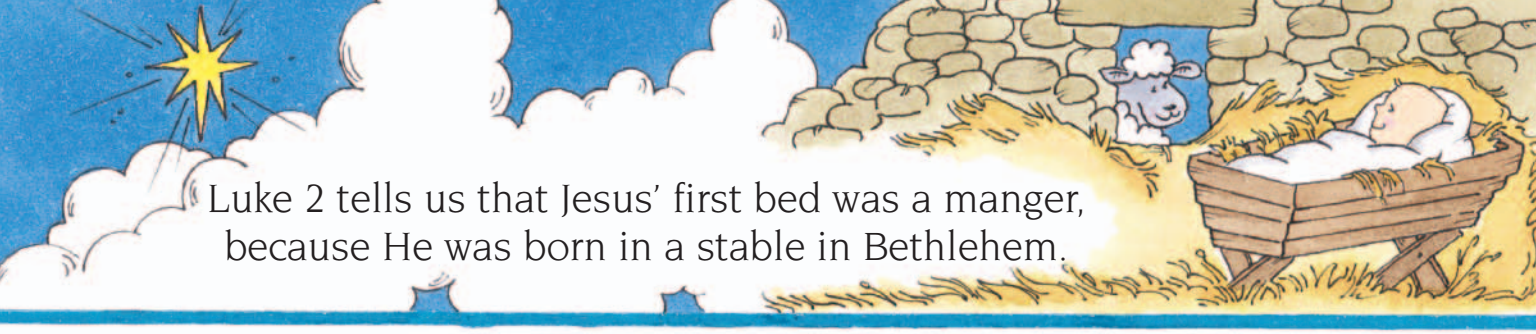


2 To make Jonah, cut a 2-inch (5-cm) circle out of the top of the toe of the brown sock. Put the white sock inside the brown sock so that the white shows through as the head of Jonah and the brown sock as his clothing.

3 Cut bits of black yarn and glue them on for the hair and the beard. Glue on the two wiggle eyes, or use buttons if you prefer.

4 The Jonah puppet goes on your hand and arm. If the socks seem too long just cut the bottoms off to a length that is comfortable for you.

To use your puppet, first put Jonah on your hand, then put your hand in through the back of the fish so that Jonah peeks out of the mouth.



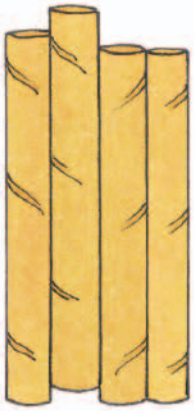
Luke 2 tells us that Jesus' first bed was a manger, because He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.

Cardboard Tube Manger

you need:

scissors

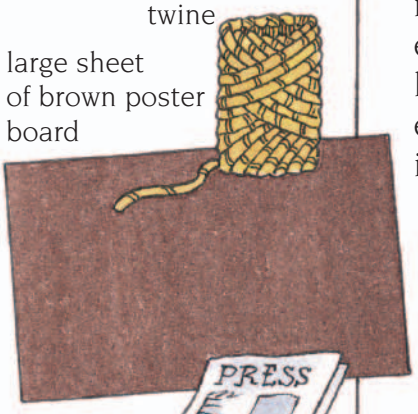
white glue



four cardboard wrapping-paper tubes of similar width and length

twine

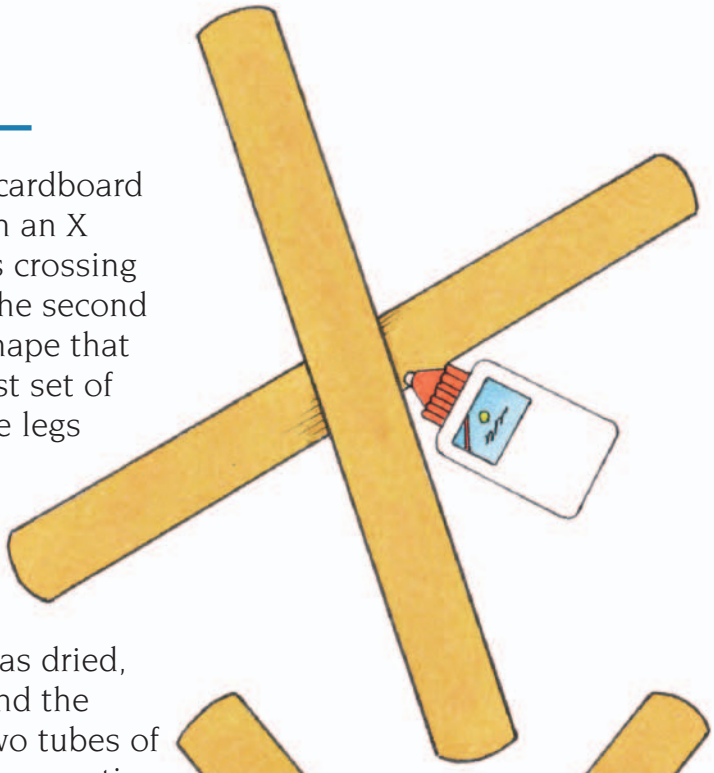
large sheet of brown poster board



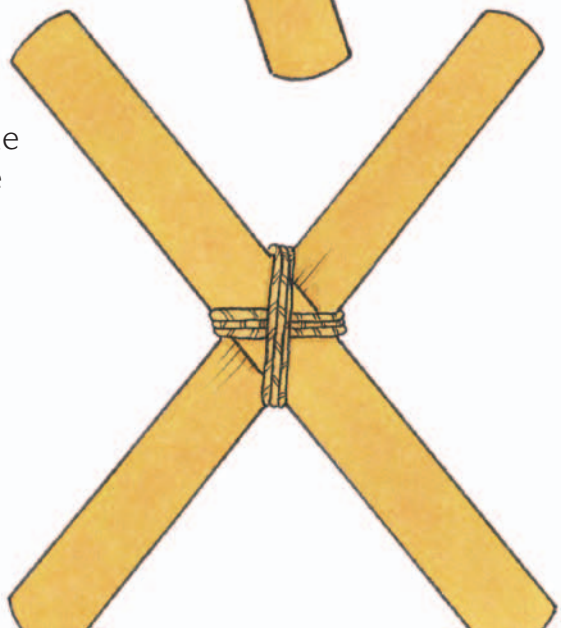
newspaper to work on

what you do:

1 Glue two of the cardboard tubes together in an X shape, with the centers crossing over each other. Glue the second pair of tubes in an X shape that exactly matches the first set of tubes. These will be the legs of the manger.

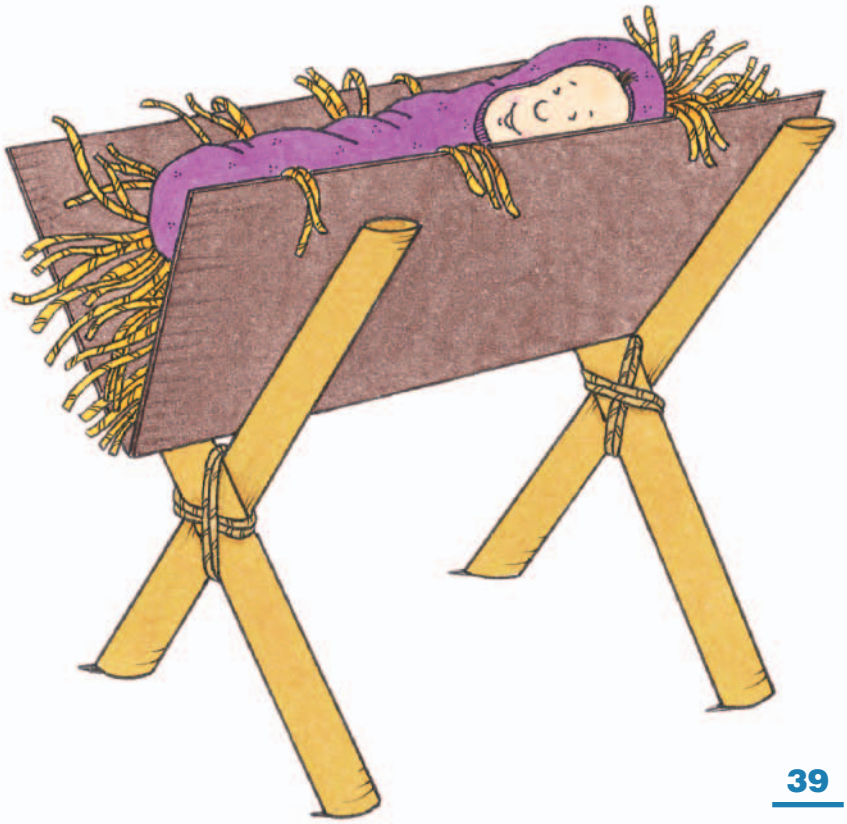


2 When the glue has dried, wrap twine around the meeting point of the two tubes of each leg to give the legs a rustic look. Trim off any extra and slip the end under the twine layers and tie it to keep it in place.



3 Fold the brown poster board in half. Stand the two crossed tube legs up and carefully balance the folded board in the crossed tubes for the bed of the manger. This will be easier to do with someone helping you by holding up one of the legs. Trim the poster board to a size that fits well in the legs without too much excess sticking up from the top or out the two sides.

4 Glue the poster board to the legs. Do not touch the manger while the glue is drying or it will fall over. When the glue has dried the manger will be sturdy and ready to use.



You might want to put some yellow yarn in the manger for hay and wrap up a baby doll to be the baby Jesus. The manger not only makes a pretty reminder of whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas, but it can also be used to play with as you act out the Christmas story.

Matthew 2 tells how the three kings found the baby Jesus by following a bright star.

Three Kings Hats

you need:

poster paint in three different skin colors

white glue

paintbrush

scissors

black and brown yarn

sparkle stems

six wiggle eyes

small beads

three solid-colored foil party hats (or paint three printed hats)

large and small pom-poms in two different colors

cotton balls

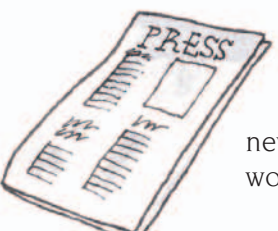
three 2 1/2-inch (6.3-cm) Styrofoam balls

masking tape

foil doilies

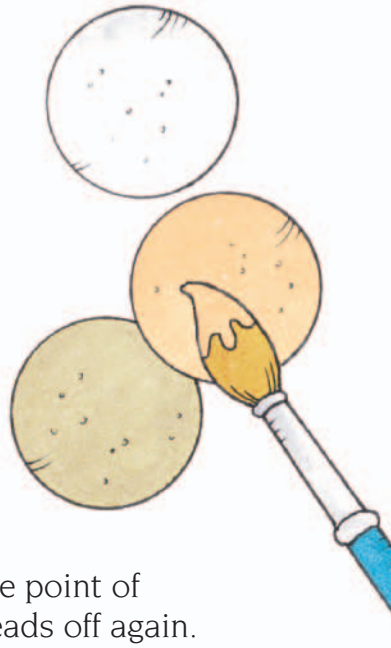
three gold-colored buttons or earrings

ribbon, rickrack, and other trims



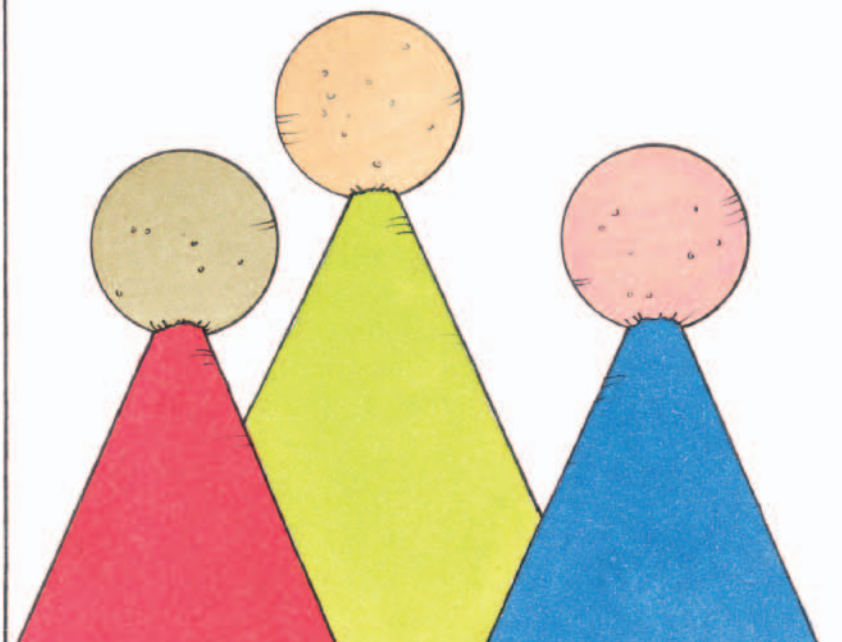
newspaper to work on

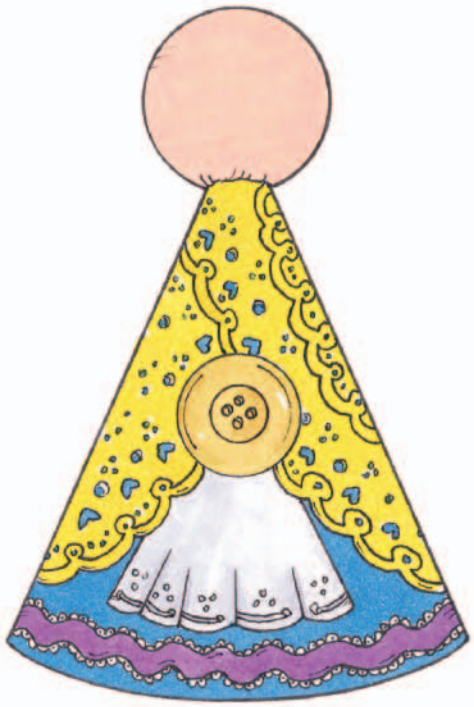
what you do:



1 Paint each of the three Styrofoam balls a different skin color. Let the paint dry.

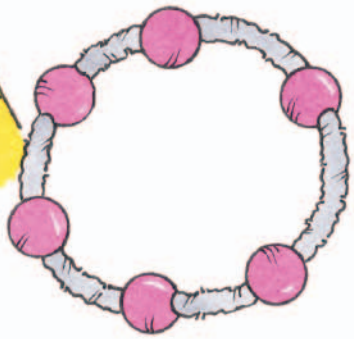
2 Press a head over the point of each hat. Slip the heads off again. Cover each point with glue and put the heads back on.





3 The hats will be the gowns of the kings. Decorate the gowns with pieces of the foil doilies and different trims. Make each king look different. For a gift, attach a gold button or earring to the front of each king, using a piece of rolled masking tape.

4 Glue on a pair of wiggle eyes for each king. Use the cotton and the black and brown yarn to give each king a different color hair and beard.



5 Use pieces of sparkle stem with beads strung on to make a crown for one of the kings. Use rickrack for another. Give the third king a hat by gluing the large pom-pom topped by the small pom-pom on top of his head.

These kings look as good standing on a table as they do on your head.

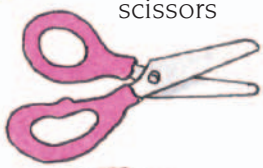
John 2 tells of Jesus' first miracle.

Turning Water Into Wine

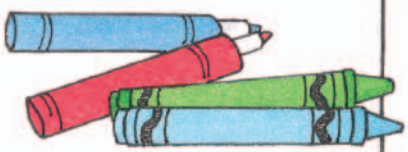
you need:

ruler

scissors



two uncoated 9-inch (23-cm) paper plates



red, blue, and green markers, crayons, or paints

brown construction paper

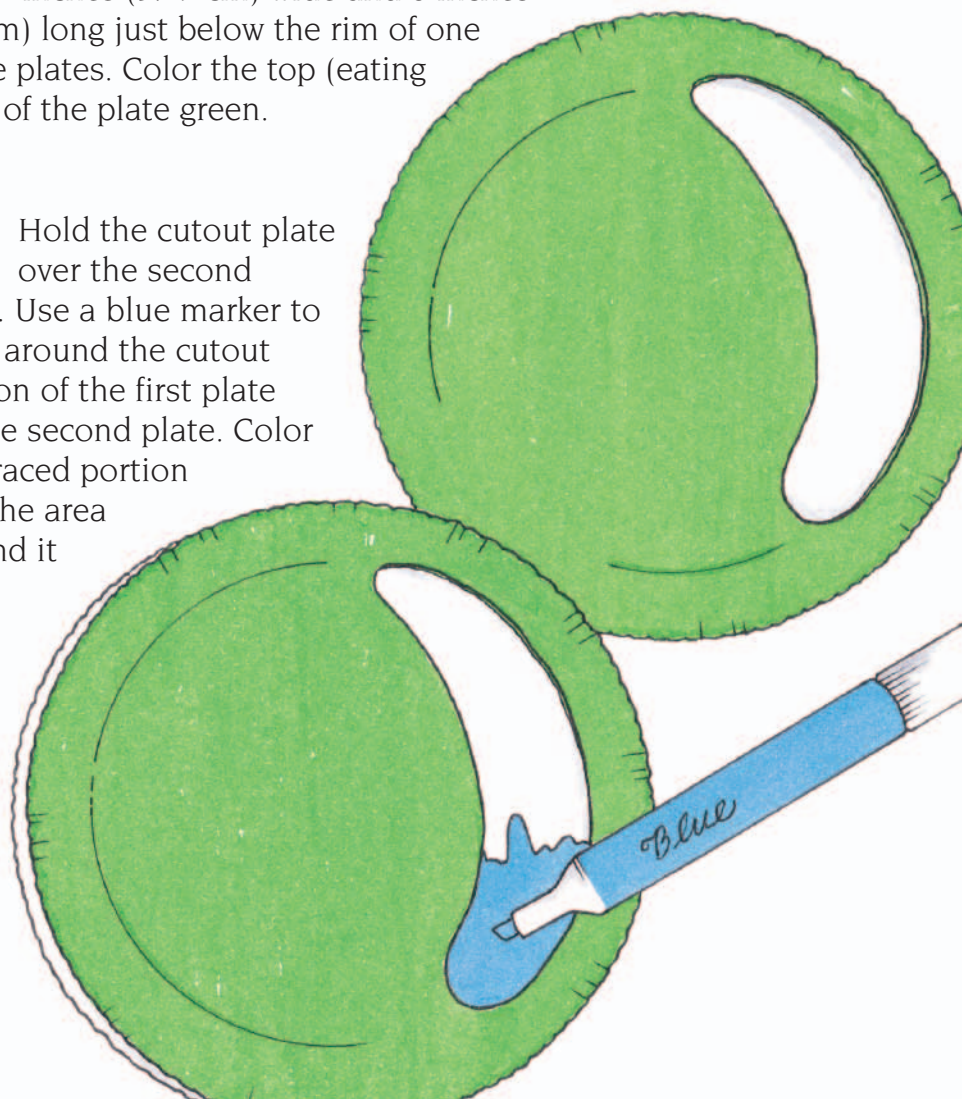
white glue

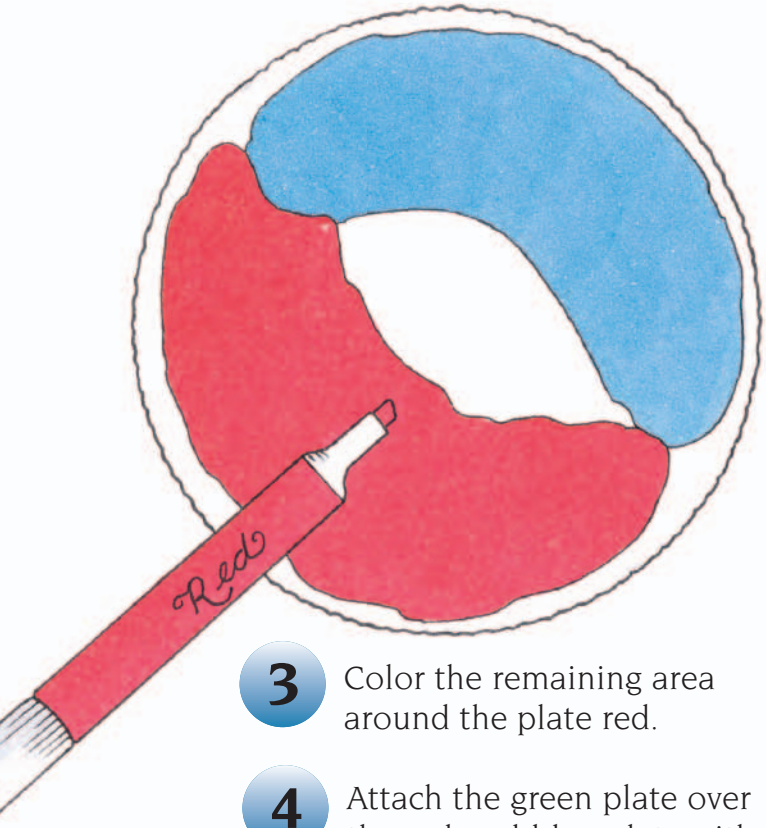
paper fastener

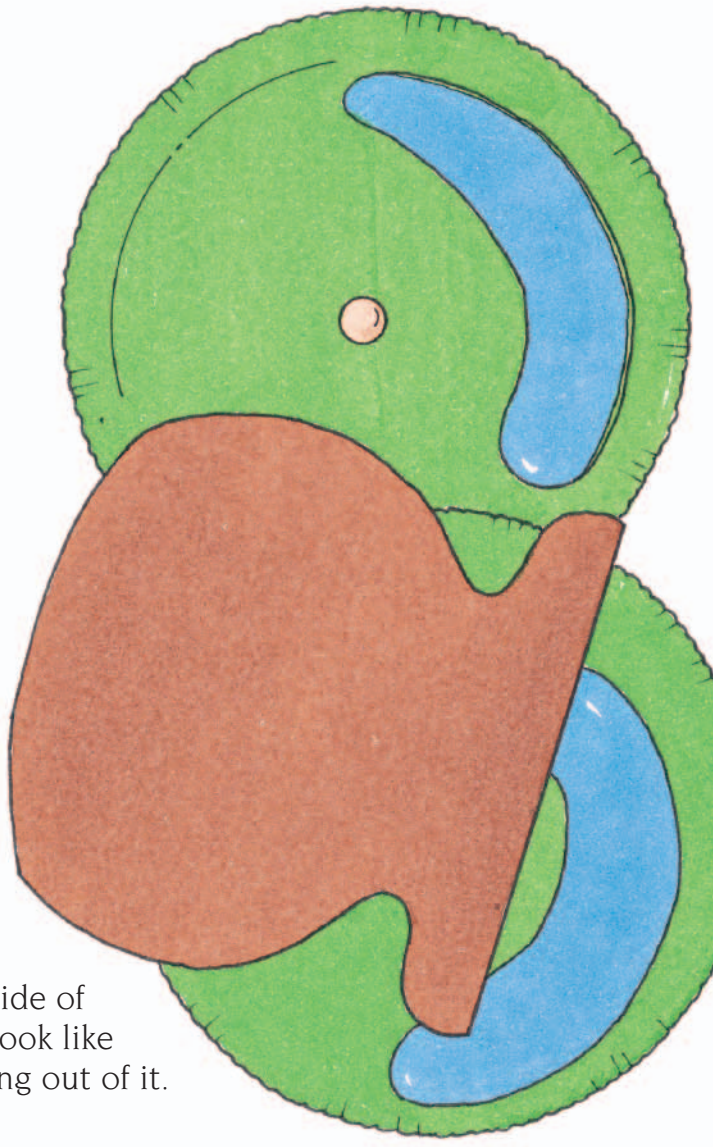
what you do:

1 Cut a curved section about 1 1/2 inches (3.75 cm) wide and 6 inches (15 cm) long just below the rim of one of the plates. Color the top (eating side) of the plate green.

2 Hold the cutout plate over the second plate. Use a blue marker to trace around the cutout portion of the first plate on the second plate. Color the traced portion and the area around it blue.





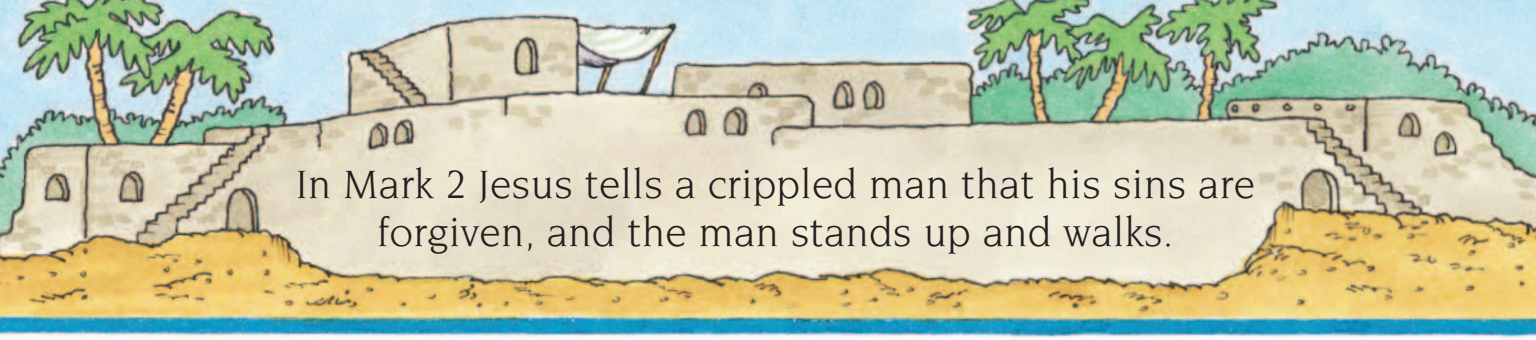


3 Color the remaining area around the plate red.

4 Attach the green plate over the red-and-blue plate with the paper fastener.

5 Cut a jug from the brown construction paper to glue on one side of the green plate. Tip the jug slightly to look like the cutout section of the plate is pouring out of it.

To show Jesus' first miracle start the wheel with the blue showing to represent water flowing from the jug. Slowly turn the back plate to change the blue water to red wine by revealing the red portion of the colored plate.

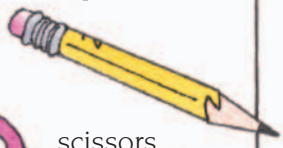


In Mark 2 Jesus tells a crippled man that his sins are forgiven, and the man stands up and walks.

Stand Up and Walk

you need:

pencil



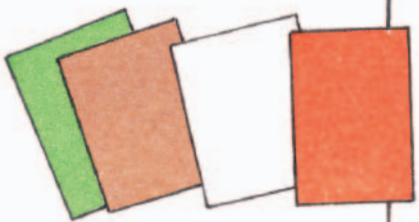
scissors

ruler

markers

paper fastener

white glue

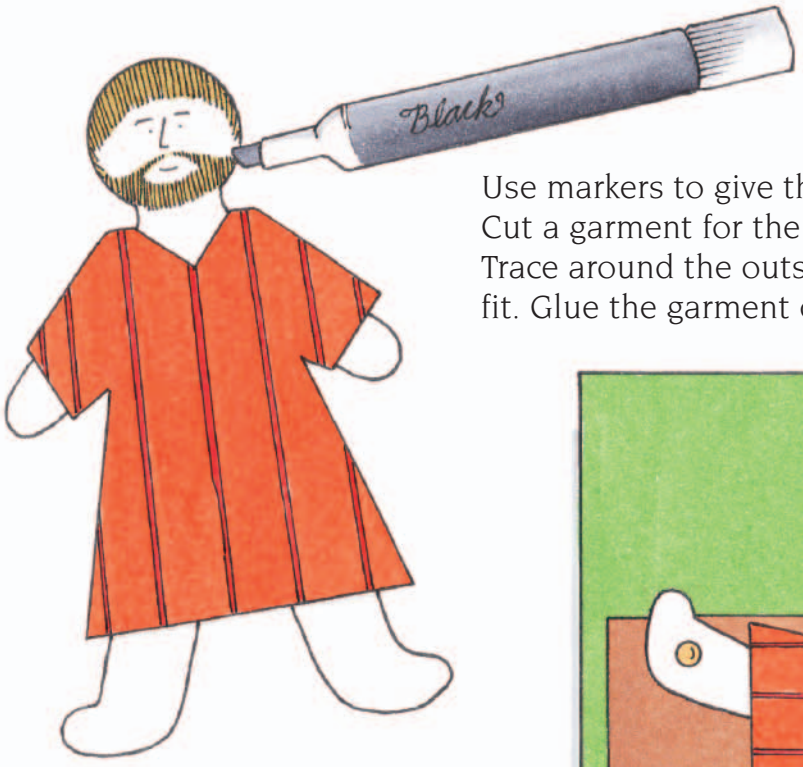


green, brown, white, and orange construction paper

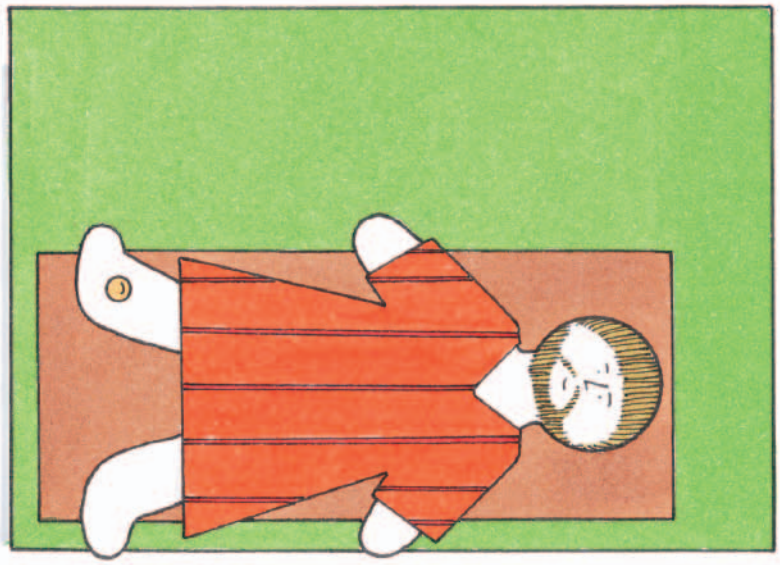
what you do:

1 Cut a 4- by 10-inch (10- by 25-cm) rectangle from the brown paper for a bed for the crippled man.

2 From the white construction paper, cut the shape of a man with his feet slightly apart. Make him a size that will fit on the bed.

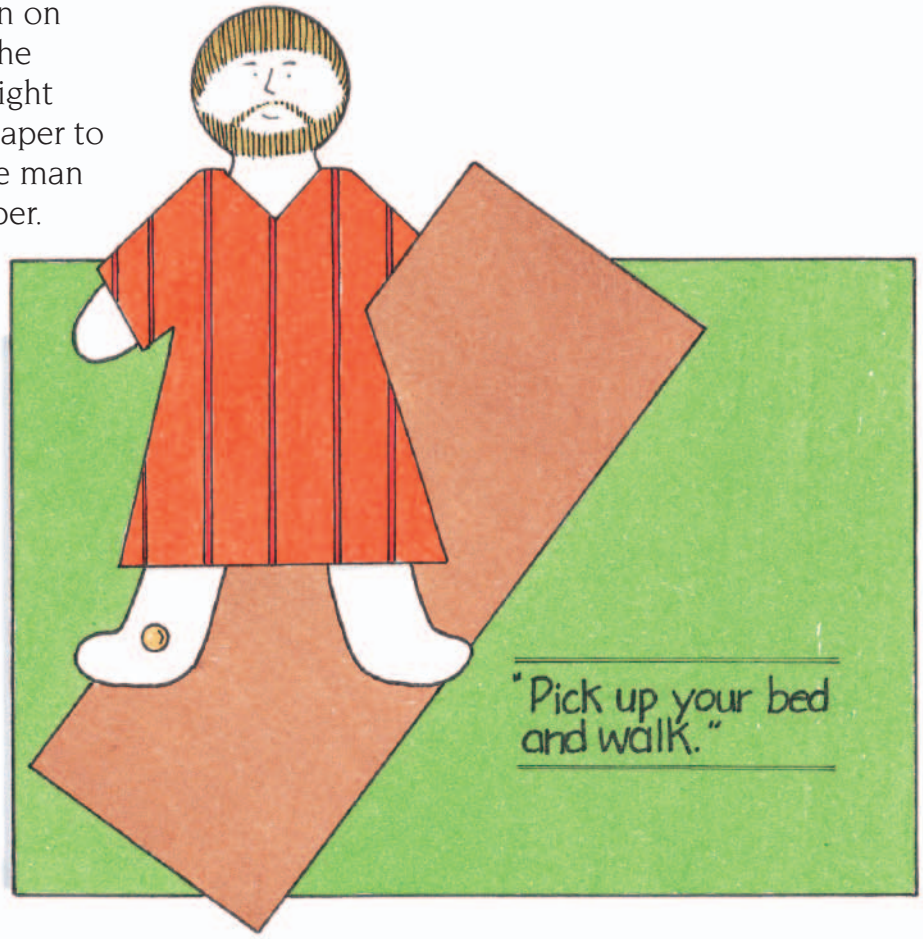


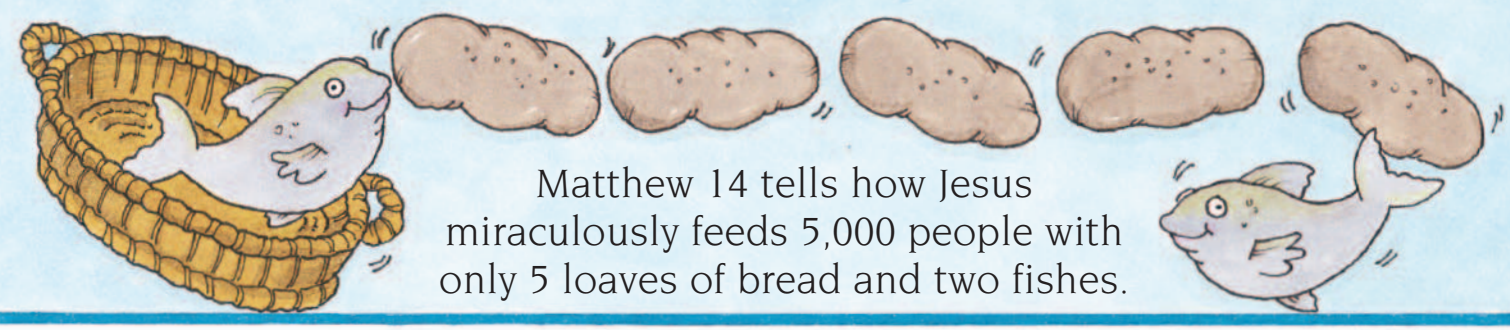
Use markers to give the man a face, hair, and a beard. Cut a garment for the man from the orange paper. Trace around the outside of the figure to get a good fit. Glue the garment on the man.



3 Turn the green paper so that it is longer than it is tall. Lay the bed across the bottom part of the paper. Lay the man on top of the bed. Push the fastener through the right foot, bed, and green paper to attach the bed and the man to the background paper.

To show what happened when the crippled man trusted in Jesus, stand the man up by swinging the figure on the fastener. Then swing the bed up and tuck it under his arm.

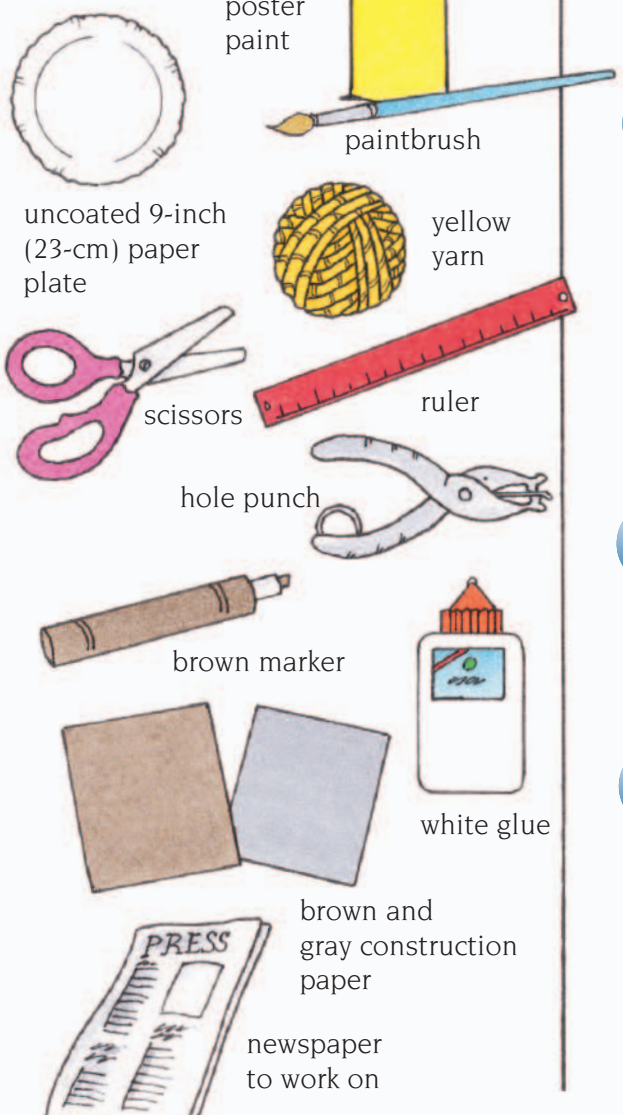




Matthew 14 tells how Jesus miraculously feeds 5,000 people with only 5 loaves of bread and two fishes.

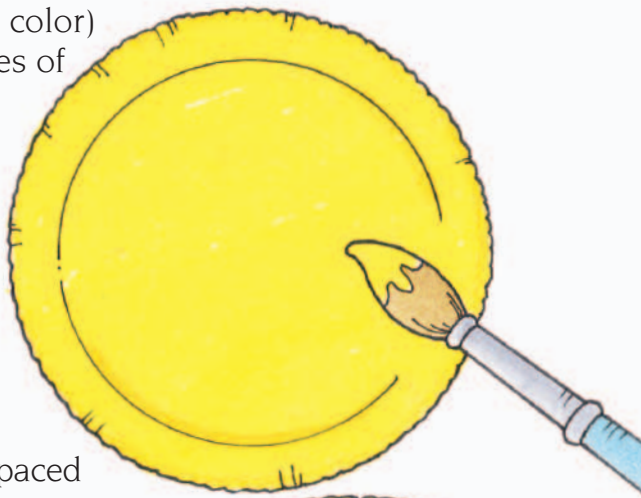
A Basket With Five Loaves and Two Fishes

you need:

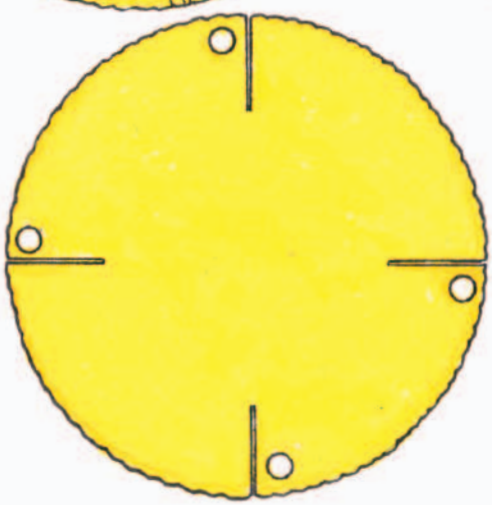


what you do:

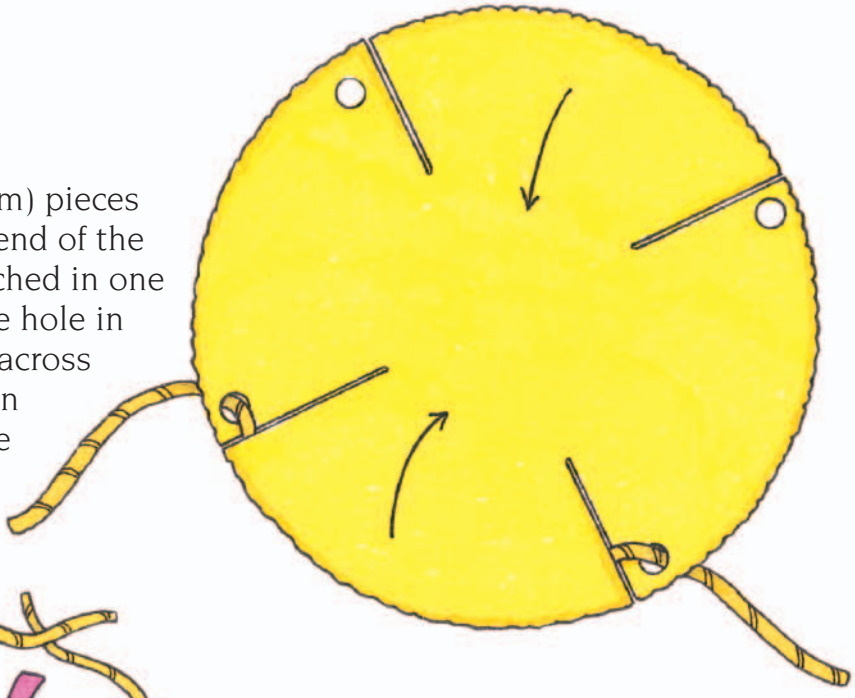
1 Paint (or color) both sides of the paper plate yellow.



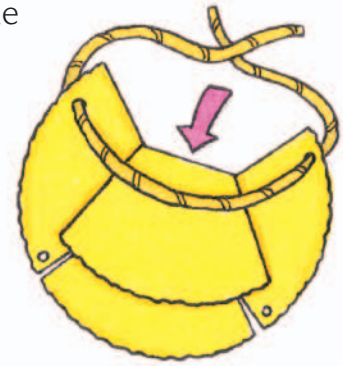
2 Cut four equally spaced 2-inch (5-cm) slits around the plate.

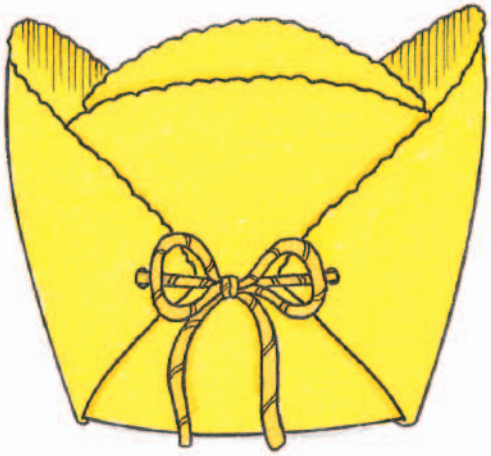


3 Punch a hole at the corner of both sides of two sections of the plate that are directly across from each other.



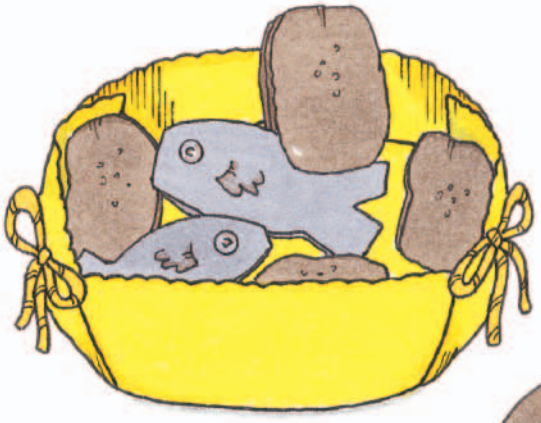
4 Cut two 8-inch (20-cm) pieces of yarn. Thread one end of the yarn through the hole punched in one section of the plate and the hole in the section that is directly across from that hole. Pull the yarn tight to pull the edges of the plate together to make a basket. Tie the yarn in a bow to hold the sides together. Do the same thing on the other side of the plate to complete the basket.



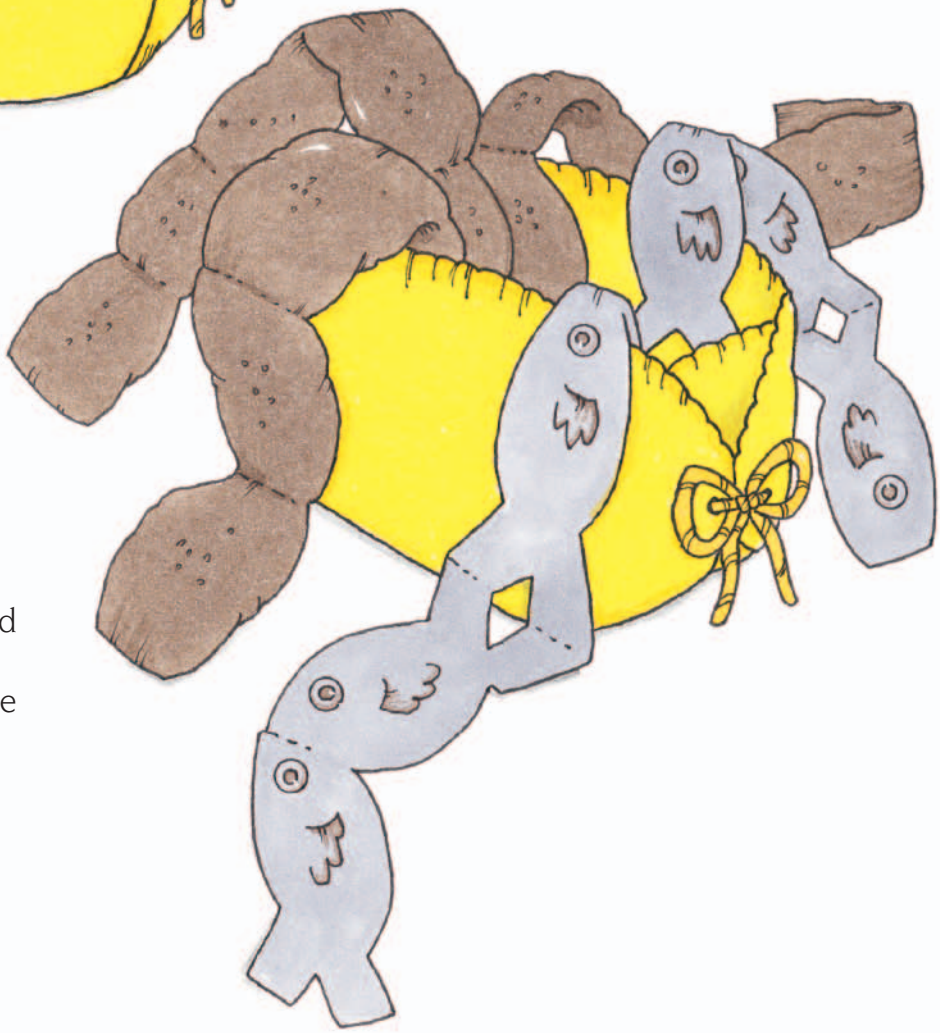


5 Cut two 2- by 12-inch (5- by 30-cm) strips of gray paper to make the fish. Fold the paper fanlike into six layers. Draw a fish shape on the folded paper, then cut around it, being sure not to cut apart the folded edge of the paper on each side. You will cut the fish just as you would a string of attached paper dolls. When you open the folded paper you should have six fish attached to each other. Add details to the fish with the brown marker.

6 To make the loaves of bread cut five 2- by 12-inch (5- by 30-cm) strips of brown paper. Fold the paper fanlike into six layers. Draw the shape of a loaf of bread on the top layer, then cut it out, being sure not to cut apart the folded edge of the paper on each side.



7 Fold up the loaves and fishes so that they each look like only one item. Glue the bottom of each stack in the yellow basket, on both the bottom and around the edges.



To show how Jesus turned five loaves and two fishes into enough to feed 5,000 people, unfold the loaves and fishes to turn a little food into a lot.

In Mark 5, Jesus brings a little girl back to life.

Jairus's Daughter Puppet

you need:

scissors

masking tape

black yarn

white glue

markers

white tube sock

pink construction paper

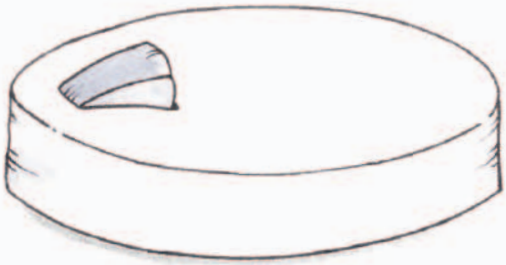
fabric scrap

salt box with metal pouring spout

shoe-box lid

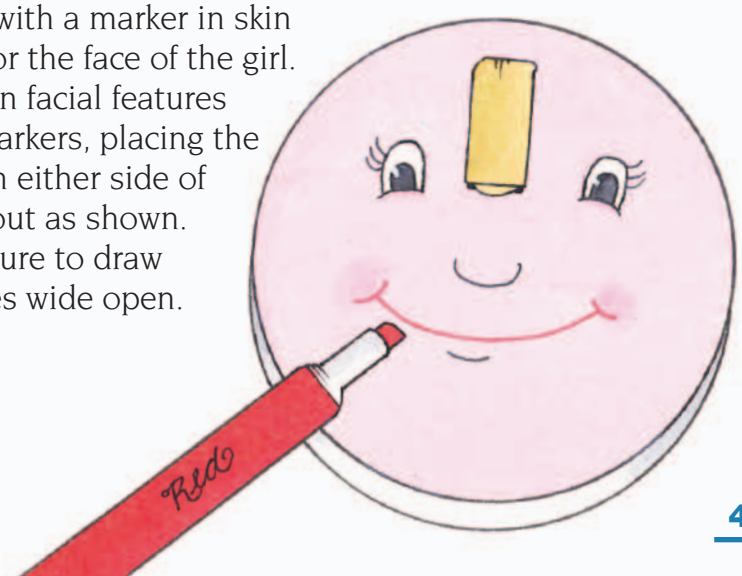
what you do:

1 Cut the top off the salt box about 1 inch (2.5 cm) below the top.



2 Cover the metal spout with masking tape to create a better gluing surface

3 Color the top of the box with a marker in skin color for the face of the girl. Draw on facial features with markers, placing the eyes on either side of the spout as shown. Make sure to draw the eyes wide open.



4 Cut two attached eyelids from the pink paper to cover the eyes to make them look closed. Cut several 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces of yarn and glue them along the bottom of each lid to look like eyelashes. Glue the center of the eyelids to the spout of the salt box. By pushing on the back of the spout you should now be able to open the eyes. Be careful of the back of the metal spout, it might be sharp. Use a piece of fabric to push on it to protect your fingers.

5 Cut bits of yarn for hair and glue them around the head.

6 Glue the head to the top, toe end of the sock. Be careful not to block your access to the back of the salt spout with too much gluey sock. Cut some sock away if needed.

7 Cut a hole in the center of the shoe-box lid large enough to put your hand through. Put the cuff of the sock down through the hole from the inside of the lid so that the head lies on the box lid like it is a bed. Trim off any excess sock that hangs down below the foot of the box-lid bed when you hold it upright.

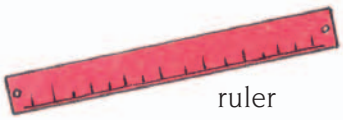
8 Cut a square of fabric for a blanket. Put glue only over the inside of the shoe-box lid below the hole, even though the blanket comes up over the hole. Glue the bottom portion of the blanket in the box.

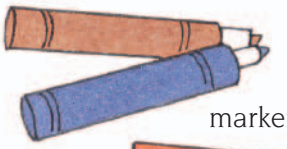
To show what Jesus did for the little girl, put your hand up inside the sock and push the back of the spout to open her eyes. Tip your hand forward to make her sit up and look around. What a wonderful story!

Matthew 14 tells about the night Jesus walked across the water to His disciples. But when Peter tried to walk out to meet Him, his faith was overcome by fear and he sank.

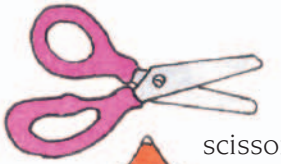
Jesus Walks on Water

you need:

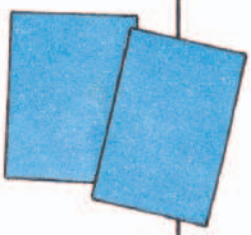

ruler


markers

white and brown construction paper

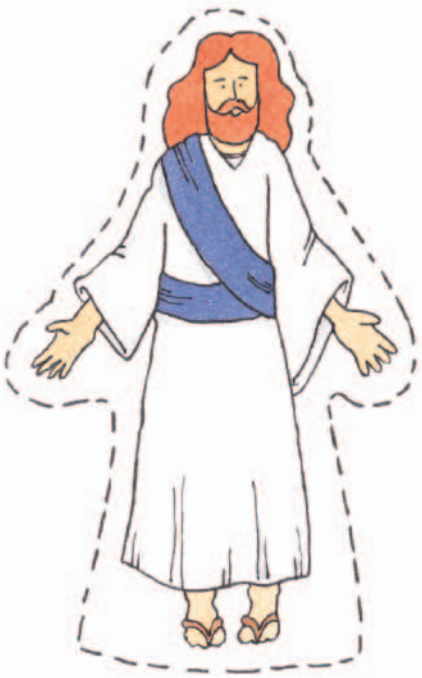

scissors

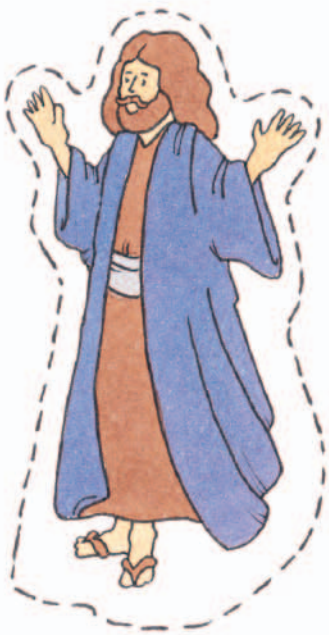
white glue

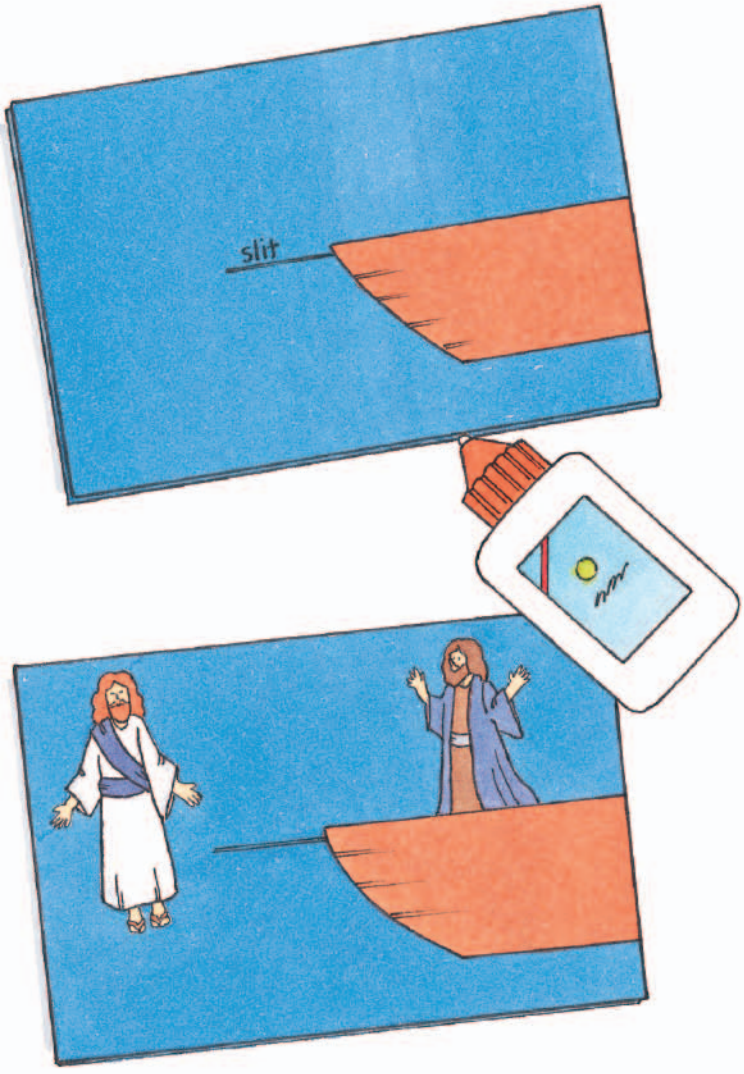

two 9- by 12-inch (23- by 30-cm) sheets of blue construction paper

what you do:

1 Draw a 5-inch (13-cm)-tall picture of Jesus and of Peter on the white construction paper to use in your scene. Think about how Jesus might look and feel as He walks across the water full of faith and how Peter would feel as he begins to doubt God and sinks. Cut out the two figures.







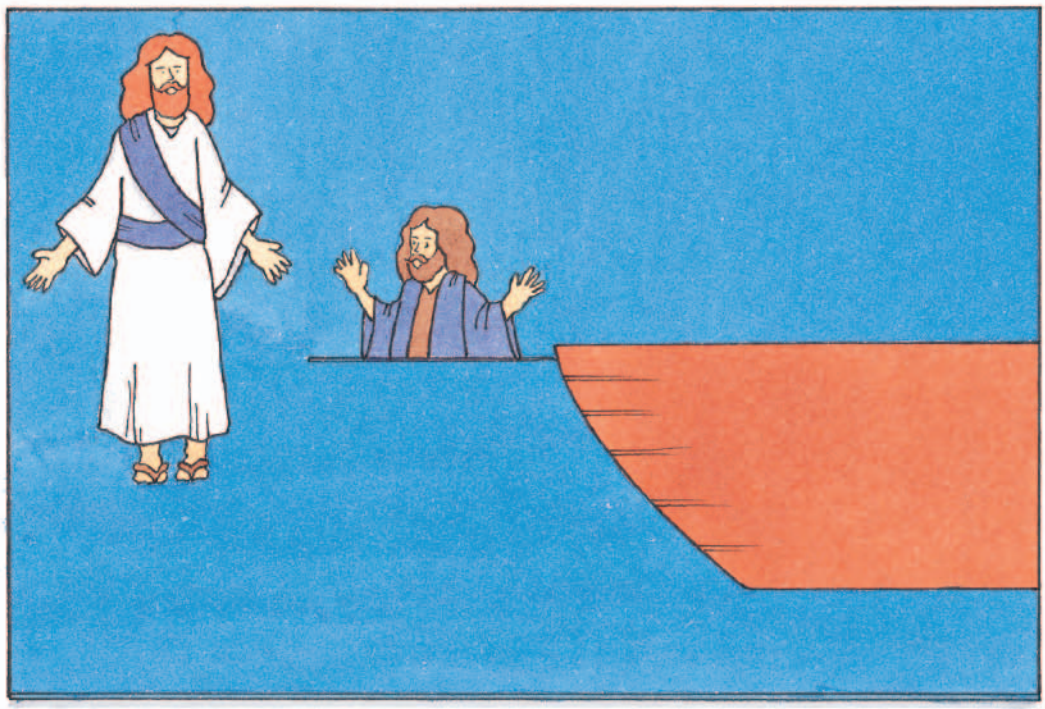
2 Cut a shape to represent the front of the boat from the brown construction paper. Make it about 3 inches (8 cm) tall and 5 inches (13 cm) long. Glue the end of the boat to the right side of the paper.

3 Cut a 6-inch (15-cm) slit across the blue paper, starting from the middle of the top of the boat and going toward the center of the paper out of the boat.

4 Glue the cut paper with the boat on it over the second sheet of blue paper, being careful to glue only around the edges of the paper so that you do not glue the slit shut.

5 Glue Jesus in the upper left corner of the paper walking on the water toward the boat. Slip Peter into the boat by sliding him into the slit.

To show what happened, pull Peter up to the top of the slit to move him out of the boat and onto the water. After he is on the water, slide him down into the slit in the paper to make it look like he is sinking in the water.



In Luke 17, ten men are healed by Jesus, but only one man came back to tell Jesus he was grateful.

A Story About Gratitude

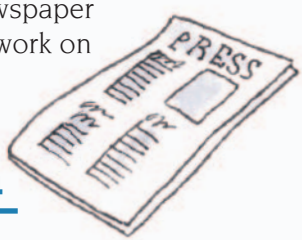
you need:

12- by 18-inch (30- by 46-cm) sheet of white construction paper

poster paint in your skin color

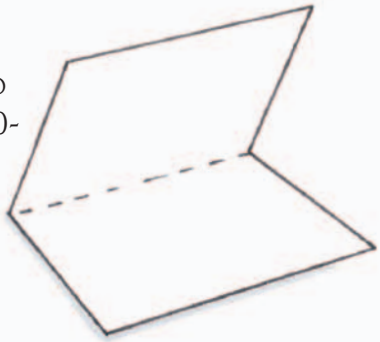
paintbrush

markers



newspaper to work on

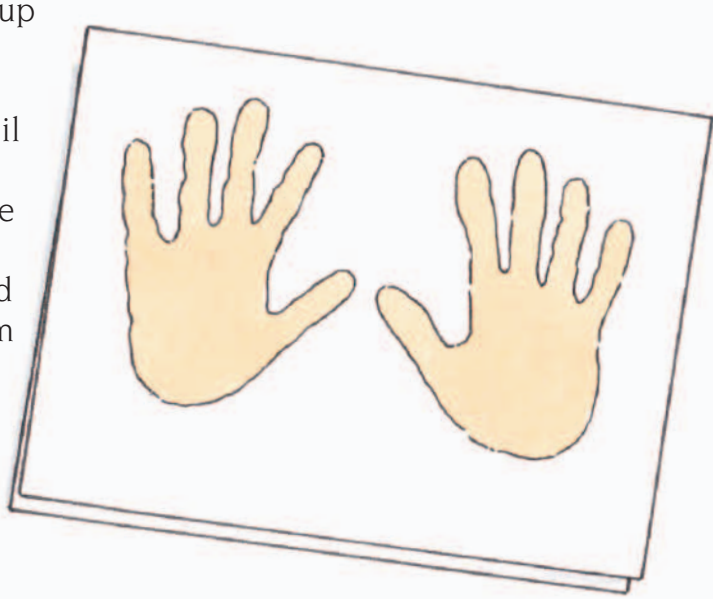
what you do:

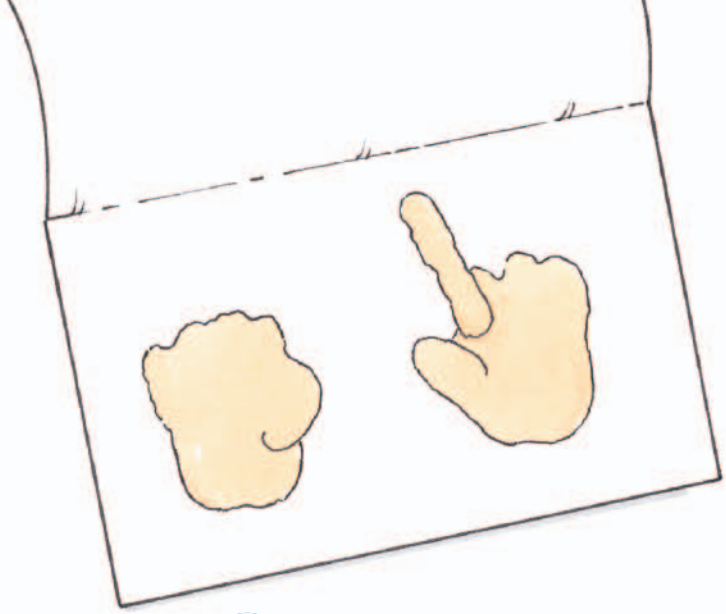


1. Fold the white sheet of paper in half so that you have a 9- by 12-inch (23- by 30-cm) card that opens from the top.

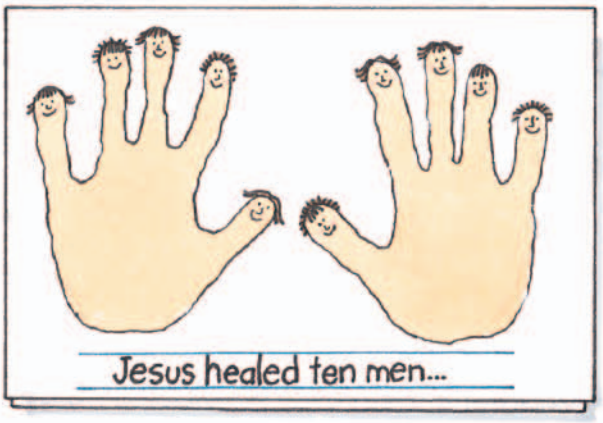
2. Paint your hands, one at a time, and print them on the front of the paper.

3. Open the paper up carefully so you do not smear the handprints (or wait until they are dry) and print your two fists inside the paper. To do this, close the fingers of your hand and paint over the palm and knuckles, then press the closed hand on the paper. You will need to roll the closed hand back and forth a bit to paint the entire area to look like a fist.



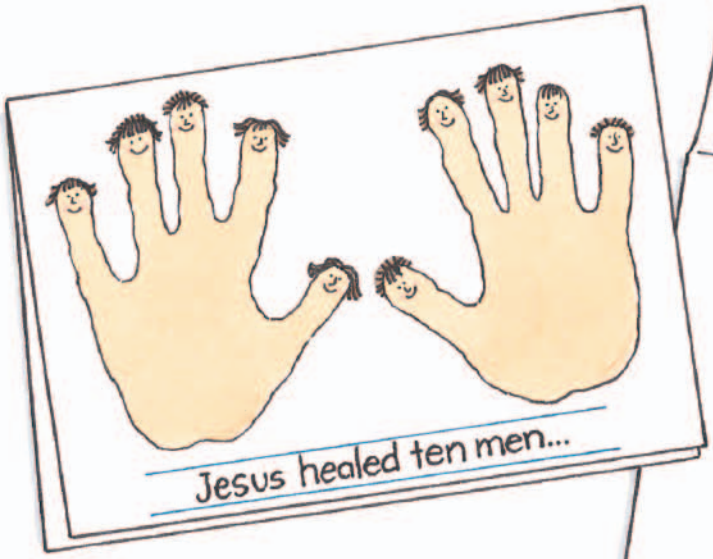


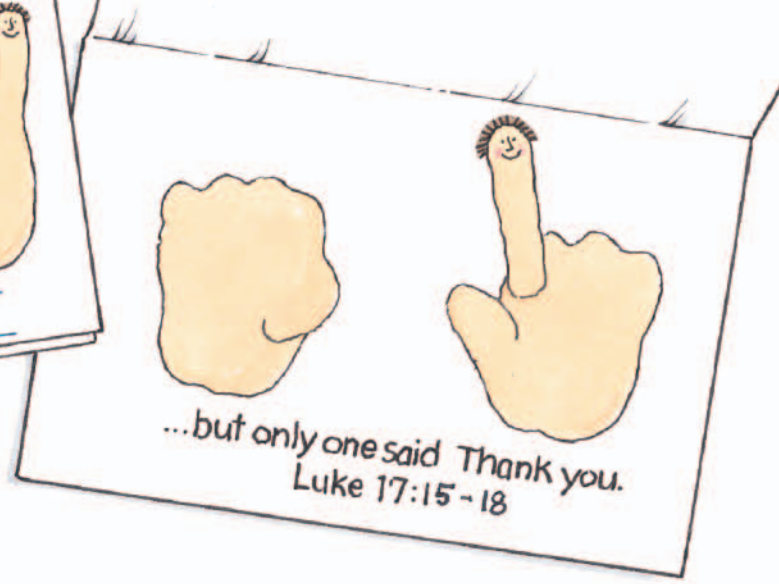
4 Paint the pointer finger of your right hand and print it where it belongs on the print of the closed right hand to look like you are holding up one finger. Let the paint dry.



5 Turn all the fingers of the two full handprints into men by adding hair and facial features with the markers. Underneath the handprints write "Jesus healed ten men. . . ."

6 Open the paper and turn the one printed finger into a man with the markers. Write: "But only one said 'Thank you.'" You might want to write Luke 17:15–18 so you will remember where to find the story.





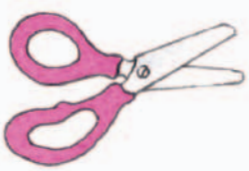
A prayer of gratitude is one way to give thanks .

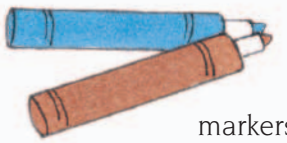
Matthew 21 and Luke 19 tell how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with palm branches.

Waving Palms

you need:

scissors





markers

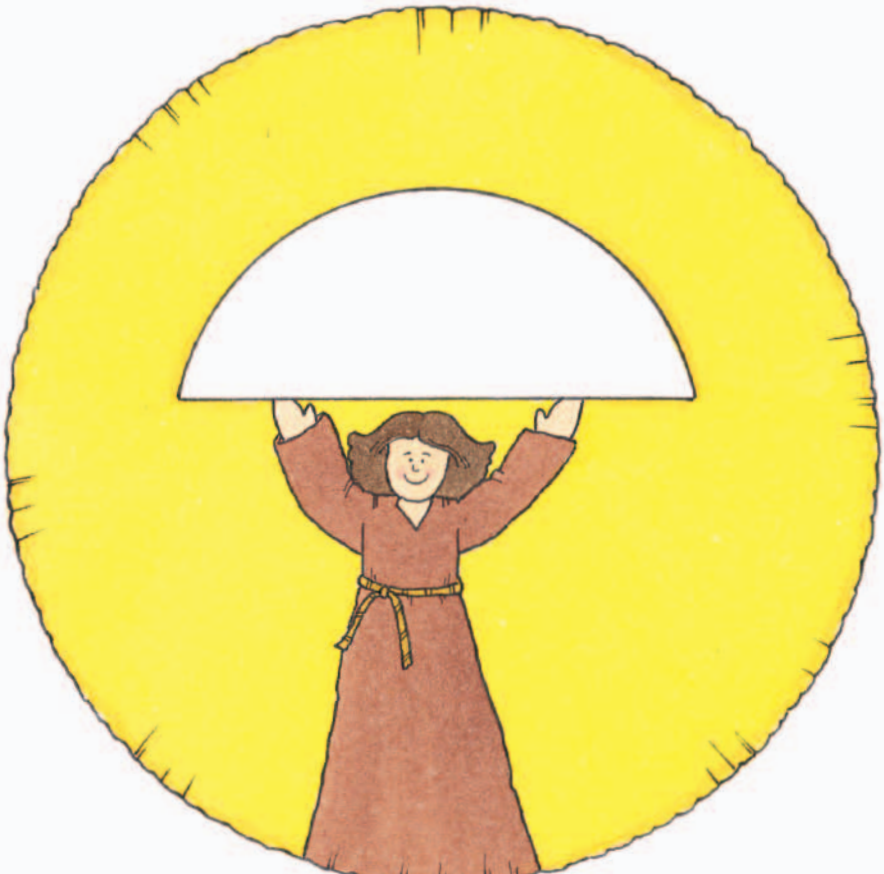
two uncoated 9-inch (23-cm) paper plates

paper fastener

what you do:

1. Cut a half-circle piece out of the inner rim of one plate that does not quite go all the way to the middle of the plate.

2. Use the markers to draw a person below the cut opening of the plate. The hands of the person should reach up to the opening. Also color in the background around the person.

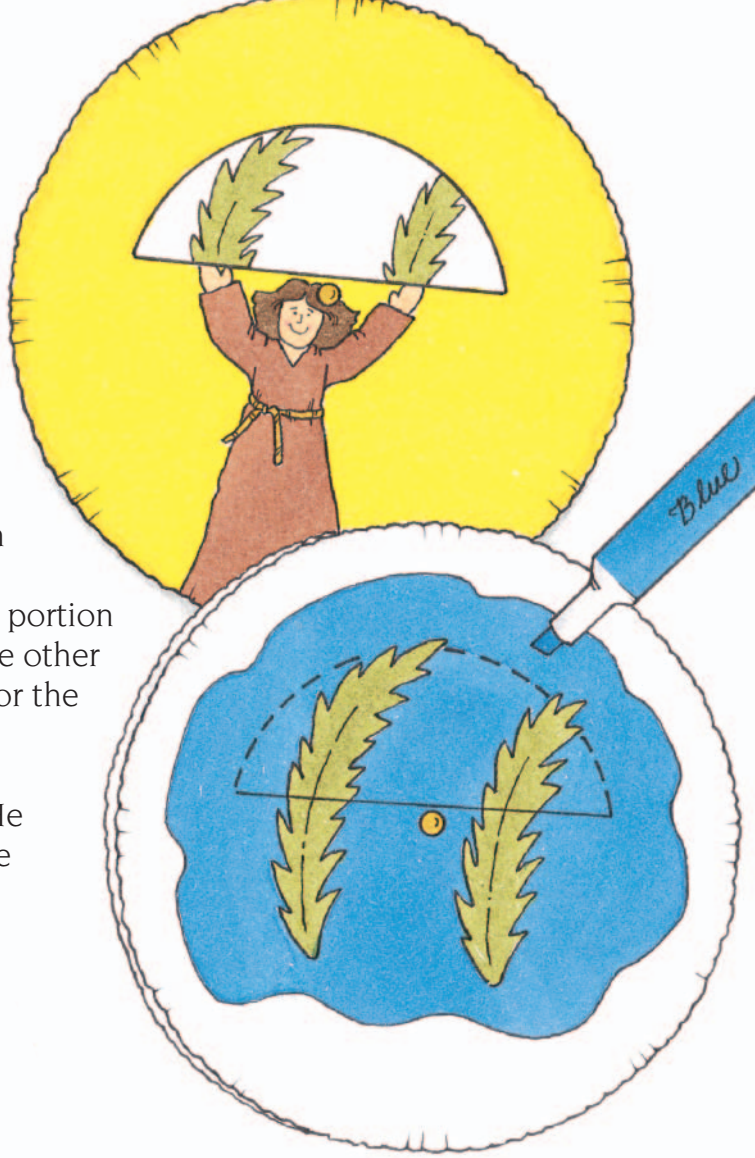


3 Use the paper fastener to attach the center of the cut plate over the center of the second plate.

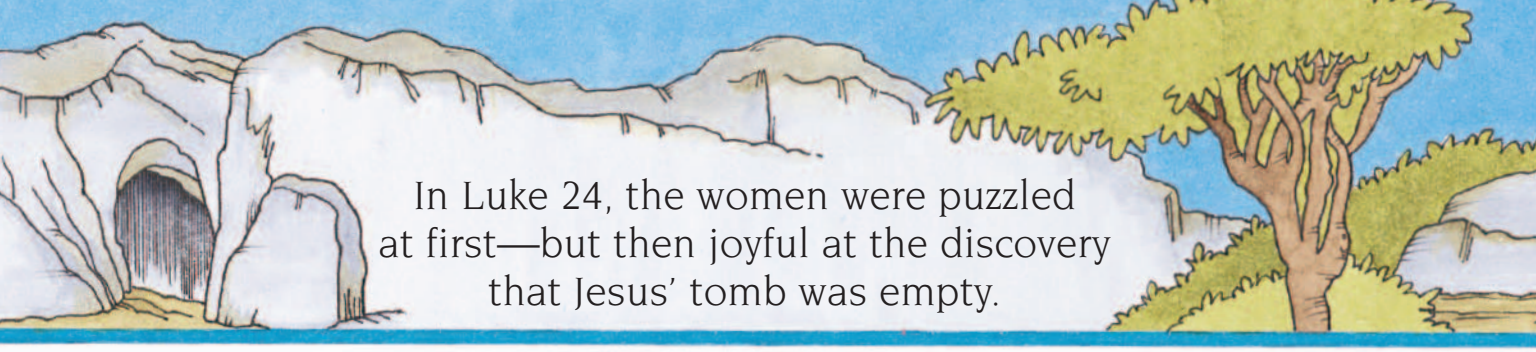
4 Draw a curved palm on the exposed area of the bottom plate in each hand of the person.

5 Carefully turn the back plate in one direction and extend the drawing of the palms on the exposed portion of the back plate. Turn the plate in the other direction and do the same thing. Color the area around the palms blue for sky.

6 Write: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" above the palms.



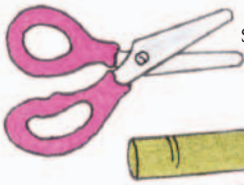
Turn the back plate back and forth to show the person waving palms in celebration of Jesus' arrival.



In Luke 24, the women were puzzled at first—but then joyful at the discovery that Jesus' tomb was empty.

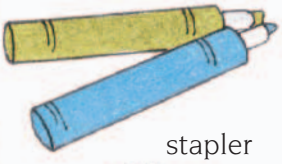
The Empty Tomb

you need:



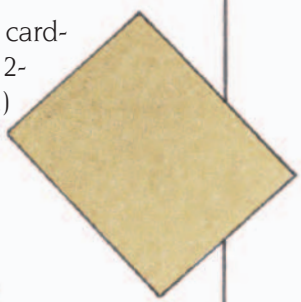
scissors

markers



stapler

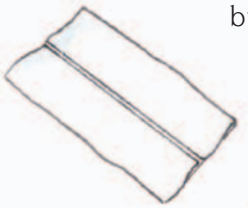
masking tape



piece of light-weight cardboard about 10- by 12-inches (25- by 30-cm)

paper fastener

two 6-inch (15-cm) paper bowls or butter tubs

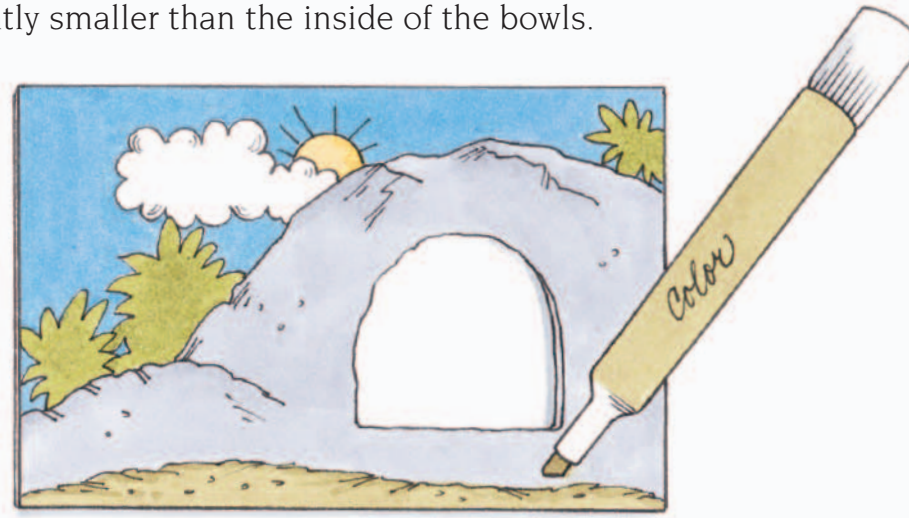


facial tissue

aluminum foil

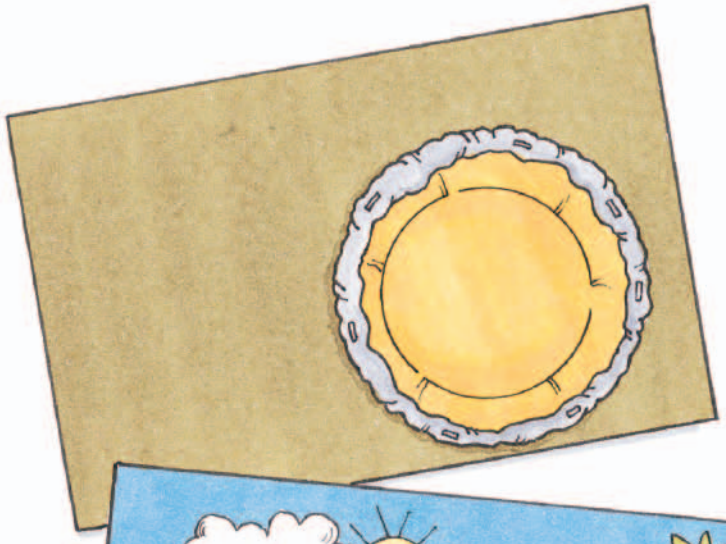
what you do:

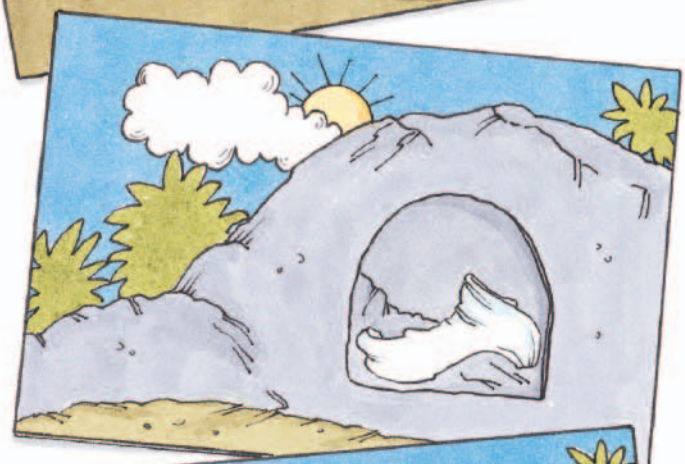
1 Cut a rounded cave opening through the lower right side of the cardboard that is slightly smaller than the inside of the bowls.

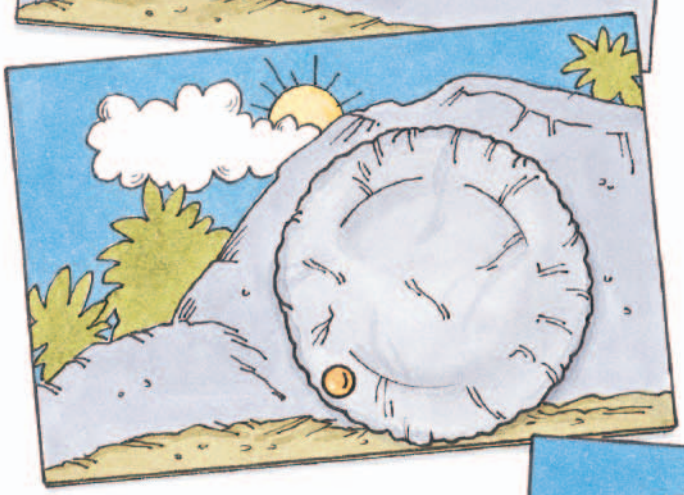


2 Color the cardboard around the cave opening to look like an outdoor scene.

3 Cover the inside of one of the bowls by wrapping it with aluminum foil.

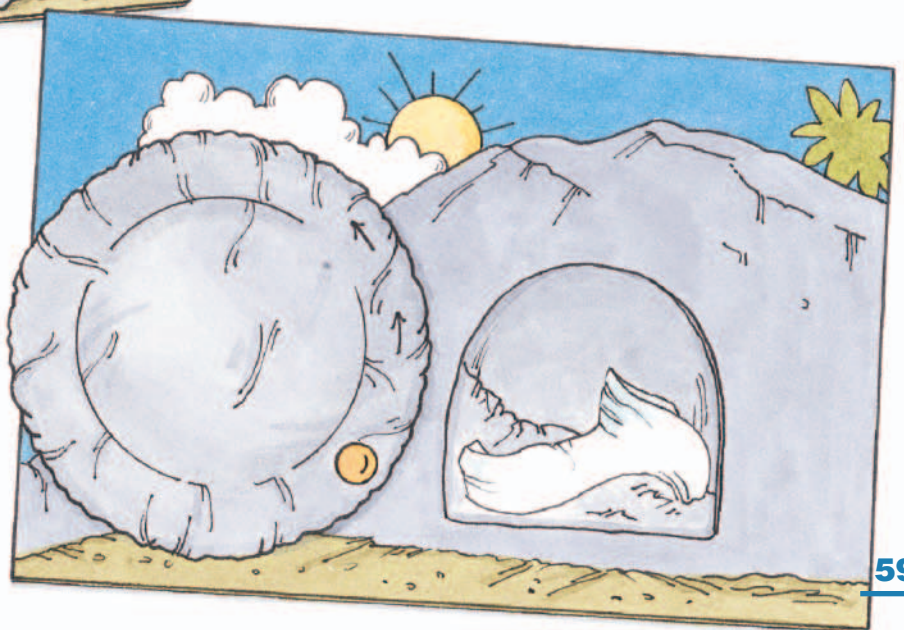






4 Staple the bowl to the back of the cardboard to form the inside of the cave. Crumple a piece of foil to make a shelf of rock inside the cave. Use masking tape to attach the shelf to the floor of the cave. Cut a 2- by 6-inch (5- by 15-cm) strip of tissue to look like the empty shroud. Use masking tape to attach the shroud to the rock shelf.

5 Cover the bottom of the second bowl with aluminum foil to make the rock in front of the cave opening. Attach the edge of the bowl to the cardboard on the left side of the cave opening using the paper fastener. Roll the stone away from the cave on the paper fastener to reveal the empty tomb.

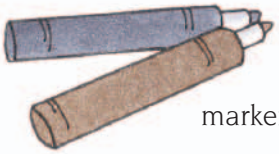


Jesus appeared to His followers many times during the days following His disappearance from the tomb.

Look in Acts I to read the story of Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Jesus Ascends

you need:

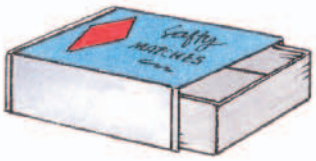

markers

scissors

white glue

string

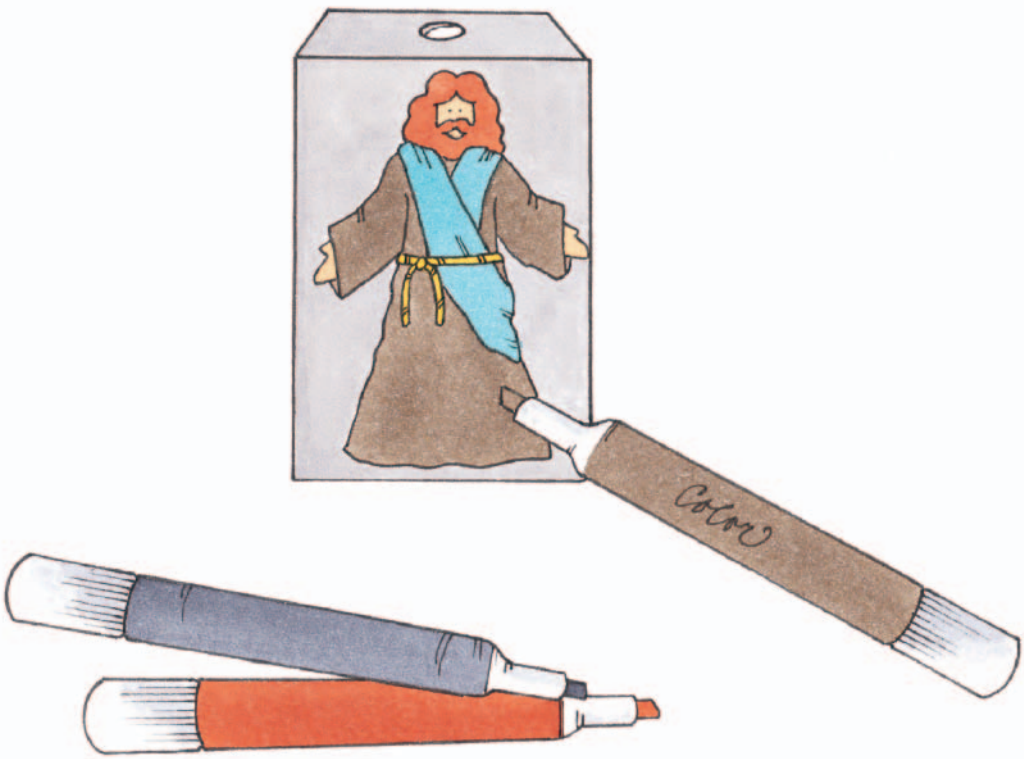
fiberfill

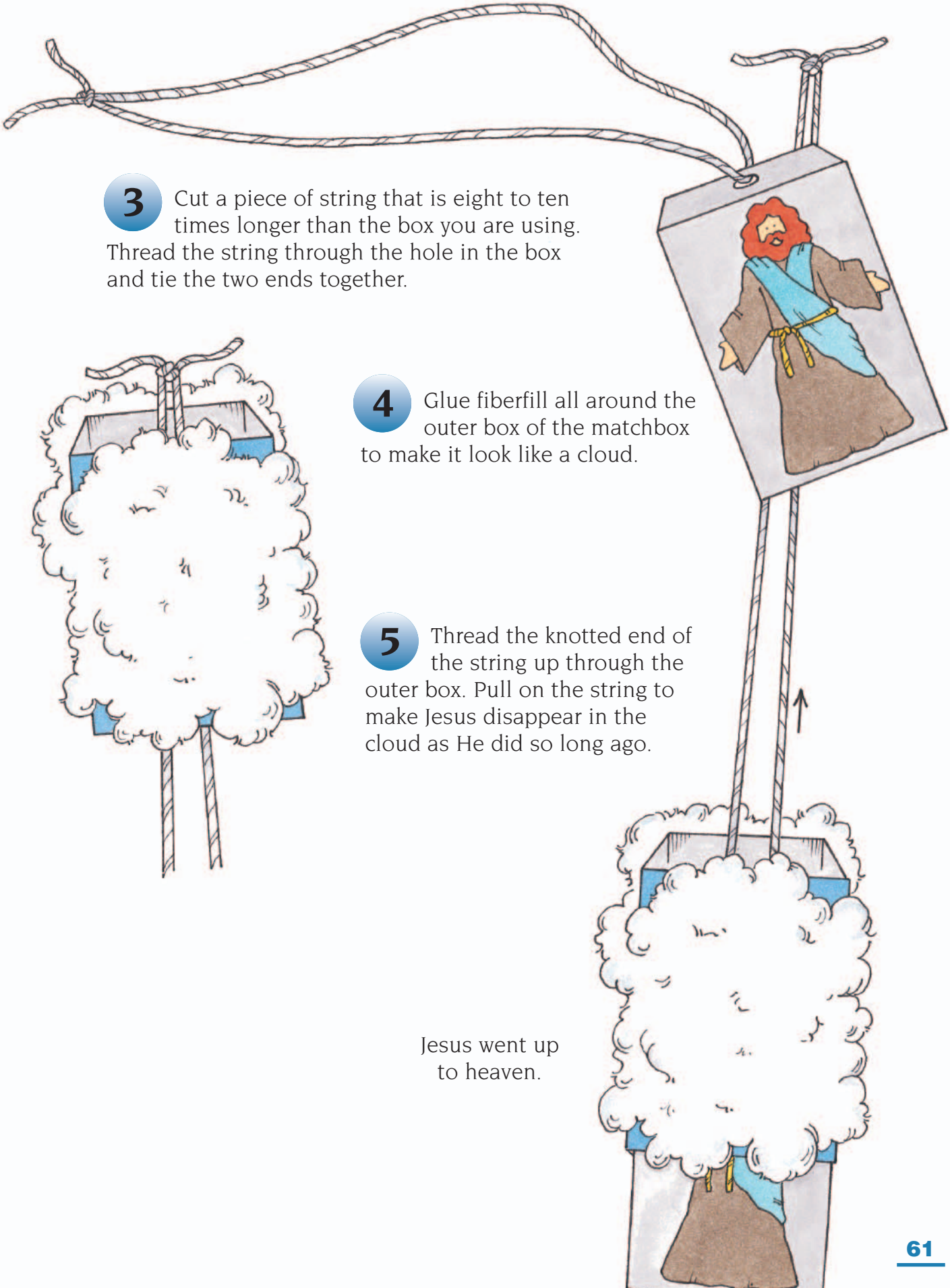

sliding matchbox

what you do:

1. Slide the inner box out of the matchbox. Use the markers to draw a picture of Jesus on the bottom of the box.

2. Poke a small hole through the side of the box above the head of the drawing.



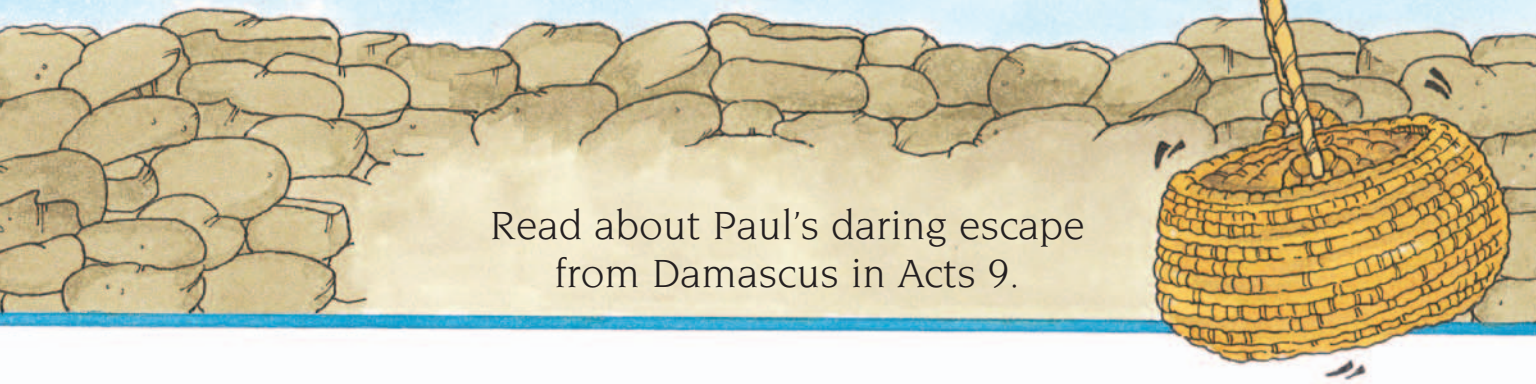


3 Cut a piece of string that is eight to ten times longer than the box you are using. Thread the string through the hole in the box and tie the two ends together.

4 Glue fiberfill all around the outer box of the matchbox to make it look like a cloud.

5 Thread the knotted end of the string up through the outer box. Pull on the string to make Jesus disappear in the cloud as He did so long ago.

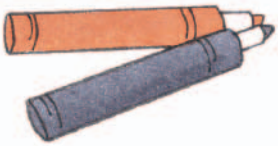
Jesus went up to heaven.



Read about Paul's daring escape from Damascus in Acts 9.

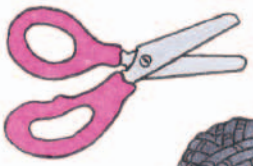
Paul Over the Wall

you need:



markers

white glue



scissors

black yarn

hole punch

12-inch (30-cm) brown pipe cleaner

two cardboard paper-towel tubes

plastic berry basket

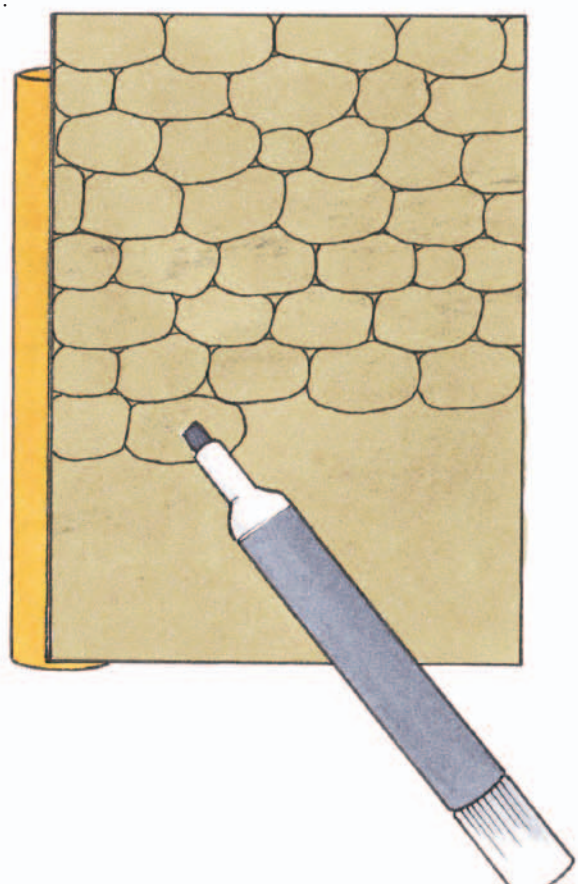
large cork

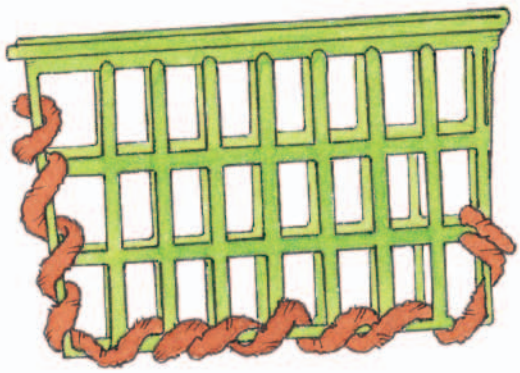
9- by 12-inch (23- by 30-cm) piece of lightweight cardboard

what you do:

1. Use a marker to draw the outline of stones all over one side of the cardboard to make it look like a wall.

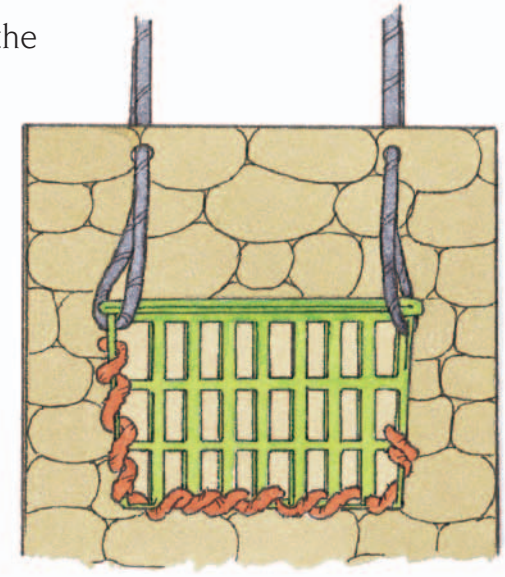
2. Glue a cardboard tube on the back of each side of the wall to make the wall stand up.

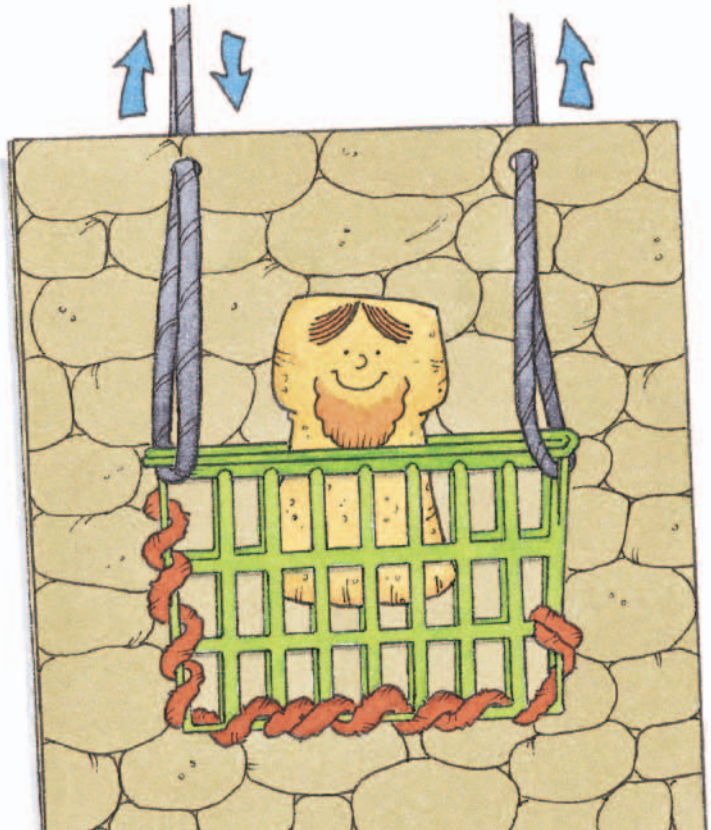




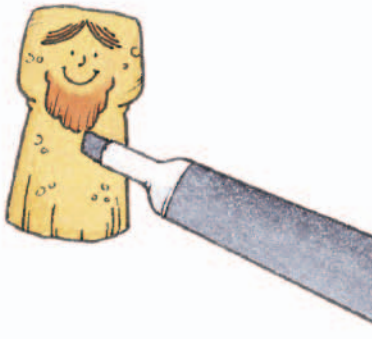
3 To make the basket in which Paul can escape, cut two sides from the berry basket, leaving them attached at the corner. Fold the two sides in together and weave the brown pipe cleaner in and out to close the bottom and open side. Trim off any extra pipe cleaner.

4 Cut two pieces of yarn, each twice as long as the height of the wall. Punch two holes in the top of the wall the same distance apart as the width of the basket. Thread one of the pieces of yarn through one side of the basket. Thread both ends of the yarn through the hole at the top of the wall directly above that side of the basket. Do the same thing with the second piece of yarn on the other side of the basket. Tie the four ends of yarn together behind the wall. You should now be able to move the basket up and down the wall by pulling and releasing the knotted ends of yarn behind the wall.





5 Use markers to color the cork to look like Paul. Put the cork into the basket.



Quick! Help Paul escape from Damascus by lowering him down over the wall in the basket!

About the Author and Illustrator

Twenty-five years as a Sunday school teacher and director of nursery school programs has given Kathy Ross extensive experience in guiding young children through craft projects. Among the more than 30 craft books she has written are *All-Girl Crafts* and the Crafts for all Seasons series.

Sharon Lane Holm, a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut, won awards for her work in advertising design before shifting her concentration to children's books. Among the books she has illustrated recently are *Sidewalk Games Around the World* and *Beautiful Bats* by Linda Glaser.

Together, Kathy Ross and Sharon Lane Holm have also created the popular Holiday Crafts for Kids series.

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—*School Library Journal*

"Old Testament stories are the source of about half of the 27 activities, which include a Noah's ark made from a paper plate and Joseph and his coat of many colors made from multicolored pipe cleaners." —*Booklist*

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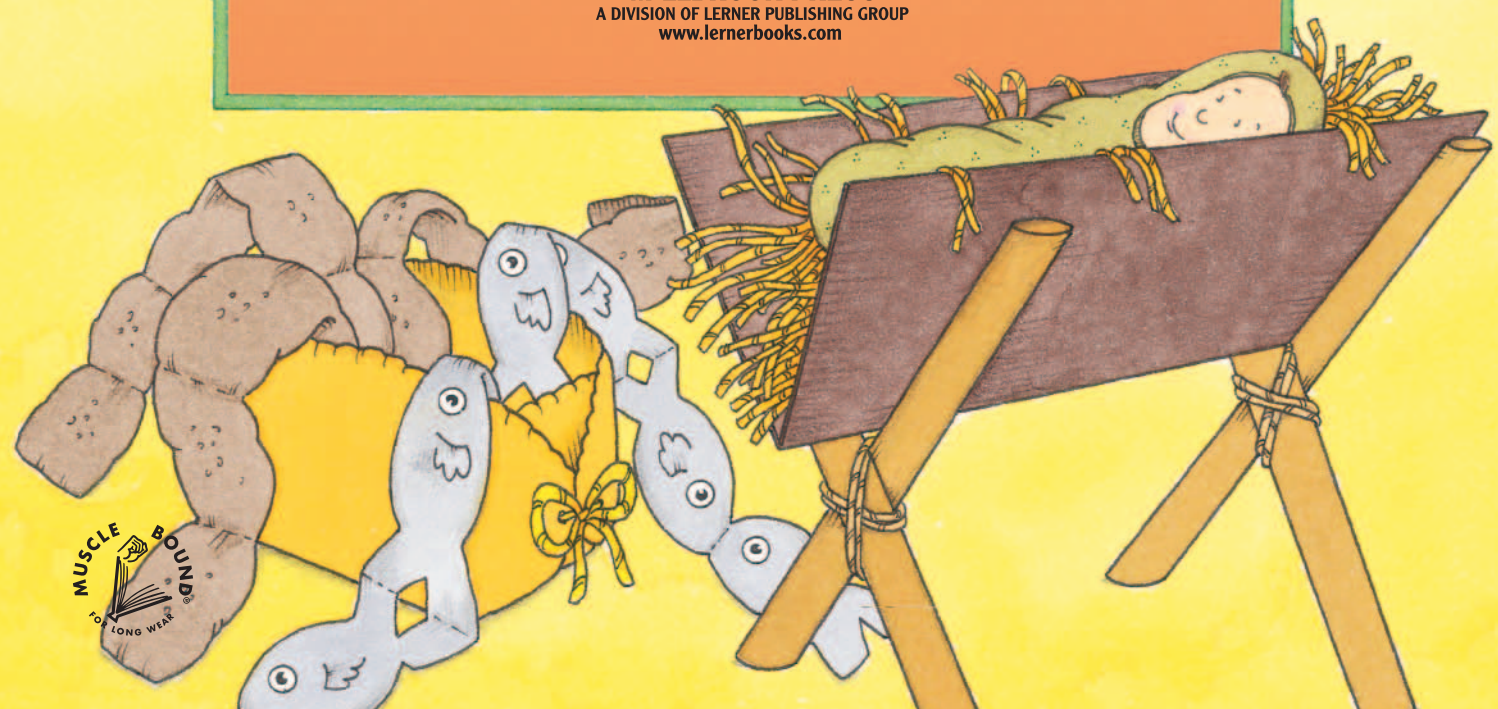

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